A/66/49 (Vol. I)

United Nations

Resolutions and Decisions
adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-sixth session

Volume I

Resolutions

13 September – 24 December 2011

General Assembly
Official Records • Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 49

Please recycle

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13 September – 24 December 2011

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United Nations • New York, 2012

NOTE

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

Regular sessions

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

Special sessions

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter "S" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter "S" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

Emergency special sessions

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters "ES" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters "ES" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

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The present volume contains the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly from 13 September to 24 December 2011, as well as the information requested by the Assembly in section C, paragraph 3, of its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999. Decisions adopted by the Assembly during this period appear in volume II. Resolutions and decisions adopted subsequently during the sixty-sixth session will be published in volume III.

ISSN 0252-7014

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RESOLUTIONS 66/1 A and B

66/1. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly

Resolution A

Adopted at the 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, by a recorded vote of 114 to 17, with 15 abstentions,* on the basis of the report of the Credentials Committee (A/66/360)

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

Against: Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Uruguay

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee[1] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

Resolution B

Adopted at the 43rd plenary meeting, on 26 October 2011, without a vote, on the basis of the report of the Credentials Committee (A/66/360/Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the second report of the Credentials Committee[2] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.

RESOLUTION 66/2

Adopted at the 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.1, submitted by the President of the General Assembly

66/2. Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The General Assembly

Adopts the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 19 and 20 September 2011, to address the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases worldwide, with a particular focus on developmental and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries,

1. Acknowledge that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals;

2. Recognize that non-communicable diseases are a threat to the economies of many Member States and may lead to increasing inequalities between countries and populations;

3. Recognize the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenge of non-communicable diseases and the essential need for the efforts and engagement of all sectors of society to generate effective responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

4. Recognize also the important role of the international community and international cooperation in assisting Member States, particularly developing countries, in complementing national efforts to generate an effective response to non-communicable diseases;

5. Reaffirm the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

6. Recognize the urgent need for greater measures at the global, regional and national levels to prevent and control non-communicable diseases in order to contribute to the full

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[1] A/66/360.

[2] A/66/360/Add.1.

realization of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

7. Recall the relevant mandates of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 64/265 of 13 May 2010 and 65/238 of 24 December 2010;

8. Note with appreciation the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,[3] reaffirm all relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and underline the importance for Member States to continue addressing common risk factors for non-communicable diseases through the implementation of the World Health Organization 2008–2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases[4] as well as the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health[5] and the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol;[6]

9. Recall the ministerial declaration adopted at the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council,[7] in which a call was made for urgent action to implement the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and its related Action Plan;

10. Take note with appreciation of all the regional initiatives undertaken on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community entitled "Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases", adopted in September 2007, the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, adopted in August 2008, the statement of the Commonwealth Heads of Government on action to combat non-communicable diseases, adopted in November 2009, the declaration of commitment of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, adopted in June 2009, the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health, adopted by the member States in the European region of the World Health Organization in March 2010, the Dubai Declaration on Diabetes and Chronic Non-communicable Diseases in the Middle East and Northern Africa Region, adopted in December 2010, the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity, adopted in November 2006, the Aruba Call for Action on Obesity of June 2011, and the Honiara Communiqué on addressing non-communicable disease challenges in the Pacific region, adopted in July 2011;

11. Take note with appreciation also of the outcomes of the regional multisectoral consultations, including the adoption of ministerial declarations, which were held by the World Health Organization in collaboration with Member States, with the support and active participation of regional commissions and other relevant United Nations agencies and entities, and served to provide inputs to the preparations for the high-level meeting in accordance with resolution 65/238;

12. Welcome the convening of the first Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, which was organized by the Russian Federation and the World Health Organization and held in Moscow on 28 and 29 April 2011, and the adoption of the Moscow Declaration,[8] and recall resolution 64.11 of the World Health Assembly;[9]

13. Recognize the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy in accordance with its mandate, and reaffirm its leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against non-communicable diseases in relation to the work of other relevant United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and international organizations in addressing non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner;

A challenge of epidemic proportions and its socioeconomic and developmental impacts

14. Note with profound concern that, according to the World Health Organization, in 2008, an estimated 36 million of the 57 million global deaths were due to non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, including about 9 million deaths before the age of 60, and that nearly 80 per cent of those deaths occurred in developing countries;

15. Note also with profound concern that non-communicable diseases are among the leading causes of preventable morbidity and of related disability;

16. Recognize further that communicable diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional deficiencies are currently the most common causes of death in Africa, and note with concern the growing double burden of disease, including in Africa, caused by the rapidly rising incidence of non-communicable diseases, which are projected to become the most common causes of death by 2030;

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.

[4] Available at http://www.who.int/publications/en/.

[5] World Health Organization, *Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–22 May 2004, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA57/2004/REC/1), resolution 57.17, annex.

[6] World Health Organization, *Sixty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–21 May 2010, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA63/2010/REC/1), annex 3.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/64/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 56.

[8] See A/65/859.

[9] See World Health Organization, *Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 16–24 May 2011, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA64/2011/REC/1).

17. Note further that there is a range of other non-communicable diseases and conditions, for which the risk factors and the need for preventive measures, screening, treatment and care are linked with the four most prominent non-communicable diseases;

18. Recognize that mental and neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, are an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global non-communicable disease burden, for which there is a need to provide equitable access to effective programmes and health-care interventions;

19. Recognize that renal, oral and eye diseases pose a major health burden for many countries and that these diseases share common risk factors and can benefit from common responses to non-communicable diseases;

20. Recognize that the most prominent non-communicable diseases are linked to common risk factors, namely tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, an unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity;

21. Recognize that the conditions in which people live and their lifestyles influence their health and quality of life and that poverty, uneven distribution of wealth, lack of education, rapid urbanization, population ageing and the economic social, gender, political, behavioural and environmental determinants of health are among the contributing factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases;

22. Note with grave concern the vicious cycle whereby non-communicable diseases and their risk factors worsen poverty, while poverty contributes to rising rates of non-communicable diseases, posing a threat to public health and economic and social development;

23. Note with concern that the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases affects people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, and further that poor populations and those living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently;

24. Note with concern the rising levels of obesity in different regions, particularly among children and youth, and note that obesity, an unhealthy diet and physical inactivity have strong linkages with the four main non-communicable diseases and are associated with higher health costs and reduced productivity;

25. Express deep concern that women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of caregiving and that, in some populations, women tend to be less physically active than men, are more likely to be obese and are taking up smoking at alarming rates;

26. Note also with concern that maternal and child health is inextricably linked with non-communicable diseases and their risk factors, specifically as prenatal malnutrition and low birth weight create a predisposition to obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes later in life, and that pregnancy conditions, such as maternal obesity and gestational diabetes, are associated with similar risks in both the mother and her offspring;

27. Note with concern the possible linkages between non-communicable diseases and some communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, call for the integration, as appropriate, of responses to HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, and in this regard call for attention to be given to people living with HIV/AIDS, especially in countries with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, in accordance with national priorities;

28. Recognize that smoke exposure from the use of inefficient cooking stoves for indoor cooking or heating contributes to and may exacerbate lung and respiratory conditions, with a disproportionate effect on women and children in poor populations whose households may be dependant on such fuels;

29. Acknowledge also the existence of significant inequalities in the burden of non-communicable diseases and in access to non-communicable disease prevention and control, both between countries, and within countries and communities;

30. Recognize the critical importance of strengthening health systems, including health-care infrastructure, human resources for health, and health and social protection systems, particularly in developing countries, in order to respond effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with non-communicable diseases;

31. Note with grave concern that non-communicable diseases and their risk factors lead to increased burdens on individuals, families and communities, including impoverishment from long-term treatment and care costs, and to a loss of productivity that threatens household income and leads to productivity loss for individuals and their families and to the economies of Member States, making non-communicable diseases a contributing factor to poverty and hunger, which may have a direct impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

32. Express deep concern at the ongoing negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, and their effect on the control and prevention of non-communicable diseases, and emphasize in this regard the need for prompt and robust, coordinated and multisectoral efforts to address those impacts, while building on efforts already under way;

Responding to the challenge: a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society effort

33. Recognize that the rising prevalence, morbidity and mortality of non-communicable diseases worldwide can be largely prevented and controlled through collective and multisectoral action by all Member States and other relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels,

and by raising the priority accorded to non-communicable diseases in development cooperation by enhancing such cooperation in this regard;

34. Recognize that prevention must be the cornerstone of the global response to non-communicable diseases;

35. Recognize also the critical importance of reducing the level of exposure of individuals and populations to the common modifiable risk factors for non-communicable diseases, namely, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol, and their determinants, while at the same time strengthening the capacity of individuals and populations to make healthier choices and follow lifestyle patterns that foster good health;

36. Recognize that effective non-communicable disease prevention and control require leadership and multisectoral approaches for health at the government level, including, as appropriate, health in all policies and whole-of-government approaches across such sectors as health, education, energy, agriculture, sports, transport, communication, urban planning, environment, labour, employment, industry and trade, finance, and social and economic development;

37. Acknowledge the contribution of and important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including individuals, families and communities, intergovernmental organizations and religious institutions, civil society, academia, the media, voluntary associations and, where and as appropriate, the private sector and industry, in support of national efforts for non-communicable disease prevention and control, and recognize the need to further support the strengthening of coordination among these stakeholders in order to improve the effectiveness of these efforts;

38. Recognize the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health;

39. Recognize that the incidence and impacts of non-communicable diseases can be largely prevented or reduced with an approach that incorporates evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions;

40. Acknowledge that resources devoted to combating the challenges posed by non-communicable diseases at the national, regional and international levels are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem;

41. Recognize the importance of strengthening local, provincial, national and regional capacities to address and effectively combat non-communicable diseases, particularly in developing countries, and that this may entail increased and sustained human, financial and technical resources;

42. Acknowledge the need to put forward a multisectoral approach for health at all government levels, to address non-communicable disease risk factors and underlying determinants of health comprehensively and decisively;

Non-communicable diseases can be prevented and their impacts significantly reduced, with millions of lives saved and untold suffering avoided. We therefore commit to:

Reduce risk factors and create health-promoting environments

43. Advance the implementation of multisectoral, cost-effective, population-wide interventions in order to reduce the impact of the common non-communicable disease risk factors, namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol, through the implementation of relevant international agreements and strategies, and education, legislative, regulatory and fiscal measures, without prejudice to the right of sovereign nations to determine and establish their taxation policies and other policies, where appropriate, by involving all relevant sectors, civil society and communities, as appropriate, and by taking the following actions:

(*a*) Encourage the development of multisectoral public policies that create equitable health-promoting environments that empower individuals, families and communities to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives;

(*b*) Develop, strengthen and implement, as appropriate, multisectoral public policies and action plans to promote health education and health literacy, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes in and out of schools and through public awareness campaigns, as important factors in furthering the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, recognizing that a strong focus on health literacy is at an early stage in many countries;

(*c*) Accelerate implementation by States parties of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, recognizing the full range of measures, including measures to reduce consumption and availability, and encourage countries that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention, recognizing that substantially reducing tobacco consumption is an important contribution to reducing non-communicable diseases and can have considerable health benefits for individuals and countries and that price and tax measures are an effective and important means of reducing tobacco consumption;

(*d*) Advance the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, including, where appropriate, through the introduction of policies and actions aimed at promoting healthy diets and increasing physical activity in the entire population, including in all aspects of daily living, such as giving priority to regular and intense physical education classes in schools, urban planning and re-engineering for active transport, the provision of incentives for work-site healthy-lifestyle programmes, and increased availability of safe environments in public parks and recreational spaces to encourage physical activity;

(*e*) Promote the implementation of the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, while recognizing the need to develop appropriate domestic action plans, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, for developing specific policies and programmes, including taking into account the full range of options as identified in the Global Strategy, as well as raise awareness of the problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol, particularly among young people, and call upon the World Health Organization to intensify efforts to assist Member States in this regard;

(*f*) Promote the implementation of the World Health Organization Set of Recommendations on the Marketing of Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children,[10] including foods that are high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars or salt, recognizing that research shows that food advertising geared to children is extensive, that a significant amount of the marketing is for foods with a high content of fat, sugar or salt and that television advertising influences children's food preferences, purchase requests and consumption patterns, while taking into account existing legislation and national policies, as appropriate;

(*g*) Promote the development and initiate the implementation, as appropriate, of cost-effective interventions to reduce salt, sugar and saturated fats and eliminate industrially produced trans-fats in foods, including through discouraging the production and marketing of foods that contribute to unhealthy diet, while taking into account existing legislation and policies;

(*h*) Encourage policies that support the production and manufacture of, and facilitate access to, foods that contribute to healthy diet, and provide greater opportunities for utilization of healthy local agricultural products and foods thus contributing to efforts to cope with the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities posed by globalization and to achieve food security;

(*i*) Promote, protect and support breastfeeding, including exclusive breastfeeding for about six months from birth, as appropriate, as breastfeeding reduces susceptibility to infections and the risk of undernutrition, promotes the growth and development of infants and young children and helps to reduce the risk of developing conditions such as obesity and non-communicable diseases later in life, and in this regard strengthen the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes[11] and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions;

(*j*) Promote increased access to cost-effective vaccinations to prevent infections associated with cancers, as part of national immunization schedules;

(*k*) Promote increased access to cost-effective cancer screening programmes, as determined by national situations;

(*l*) Scale up, where appropriate, a package of proven, effective interventions, such as health promotion and primary prevention approaches, and galvanize actions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through a meaningful multisectoral response, addressing risk factors and determinants of health;

44. With a view to strengthening its contribution to non-communicable disease prevention and control, call upon the private sector, where appropriate, to:

(*a*) Take measures to implement the World Health Organization set of recommendations to reduce the impact of the marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, while taking into account existing national legislation and policies;

(*b*) Consider producing and promoting more food products consistent with a healthy diet, including by reformulating products to provide healthier options that are affordable and accessible and that follow relevant nutrition facts and labelling standards, including information on sugars, salt and fats and, where appropriate, trans-fat content;

(*c*) Promote and create an enabling environment for healthy behaviours among workers, including by establishing tobacco-free workplaces and safe and healthy working environments through occupational safety and health measures, including, where appropriate, through good corporate practices, workplace wellness programmes and health insurance plans;

(*d*) Work towards reducing the use of salt in the food industry in order to lower sodium consumption;

(*e*) Contribute to efforts to improve access to and affordability of medicines and technologies in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

Strengthen national policies and health systems

45. Promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, as appropriate, multisectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2008–2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the objectives contained therein, and take steps to implement such policies and plans:

(*a*) Strengthen and integrate, as appropriate, non-communicable disease policies and programmes into health-planning processes and the national development agenda of each Member State;

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[10] World Health Organization, *Sixty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–21 May 2010, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA63/2010/REC/1), annex 4.

[11] Available from www.who.int/nutrition/publications/code_english.pdf.

(*b*) Pursue, as appropriate, comprehensive strengthening of health systems that support primary health care and deliver effective, sustainable and coordinated responses and evidence-based, cost-effective, equitable and integrated essential services for addressing non-communicable disease risk factors and for the prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable diseases, acknowledging the importance of promoting patient empowerment, rehabilitation and palliative care for persons with non-communicable diseases and of a life course approach, given the often chronic nature of non-communicable diseases;

(*c*) According to national priorities, and taking into account domestic circumstances, increase and prioritize budgetary allocations for addressing non-communicable disease risk factors and for surveillance, prevention, early detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases and the related care and support, including palliative care;

(*d*) Explore the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including traditional and voluntary innovative financing mechanisms;

(*e*) Pursue and promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases founded on data disaggregated by sex and age in an effort to address the critical differences in the risks of morbidity and mortality from non-communicable diseases for women and men;

(*f*) Promote multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in order to reverse, stop and decrease the rising trends of obesity in child, youth and adult populations, respectively;

(*g*) Recognize where health disparities exist between indigenous peoples and non-indigenous populations in the incidence of non-communicable diseases and their common risk factors, and that these disparities are often linked to historical, economic and social factors, and encourage the involvement of indigenous peoples and communities in the development, implementation and evaluation of non-communicable disease prevention and control policies, plans and programmes, where appropriate, while promoting the development and strengthening of capacities at various levels and recognizing the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and respecting, preserving and promoting, as appropriate, their traditional medicine, including conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals;

(*h*) Recognize further the potential and contribution of traditional and local knowledge, and in this regard respect and preserve, in accordance with national capacities, priorities, relevant legislation and circumstances, the knowledge and safe and effective use of traditional medicine, treatments and practices, appropriately based on the circumstances in each country;

(*i*) Pursue all necessary efforts to strengthen nationally driven, sustainable, cost-effective and comprehensive responses in all sectors for the prevention of non-communicable diseases, with the full and active participation of people living with these diseases, civil society and the private sector, where appropriate;

(*j*) Promote the production, training and retention of health workers with a view to facilitating adequate deployment of a skilled health workforce within countries and regions, in accordance with the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel;[12]

(*k*) Strengthen, as appropriate, information systems for health planning and management, including through the collection, disaggregation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data and the development of population-based national registries and surveys, where appropriate, to facilitate appropriate and timely interventions for the entire population;

(*l*) According to national priorities, give greater priority to surveillance, early detection, screening, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases and prevention and control, and to improving accessibility to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and technologies to diagnose and to treat them; provide sustainable access to medicines and technologies, including through the development and use of evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of non-communicable diseases, and efficient procurement and distribution of medicines in countries; and strengthen viable financing options and promote the use of affordable medicines, including generics, as well as improved access to preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services, particularly at the community level;

(*m*) According to country-led prioritization, ensure the scaling-up of effective, evidence-based and cost-effective interventions that demonstrate the potential to treat individuals with non-communicable diseases, protect those at high risk of developing them and reduce risk across populations;

(*n*) Recognize the importance of universal coverage in national health systems, especially through primary health care and social protection mechanisms, to provide access to health services for all, in particular for the poorest segments of the population;

(*o*) Promote the inclusion of non-communicable disease prevention and control within sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health programmes, especially at the primary health-care level, as well as other programmes, as appropriate, and also integrate interventions in these areas into non-communicable disease prevention programmes;

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[12] See World Health Organization, *Sixty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–21 May 2010, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA63/2010/REC/1), annex 5.

(*p*) Promote access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care for the integrated management of non-communicable diseases, including, inter alia, increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and diagnostics and other technologies, including through the full use of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) flexibilities;

(*q*) Improve diagnostic services, including by increasing the capacity of and access to laboratory and imaging services with adequate and skilled manpower to deliver such services, and collaborate with the private sector to improve affordability, accessibility and maintenance of diagnostic equipment and technologies;

(*r*) Encourage alliances and networks that bring together national, regional and global actors, including academic and research institutes, for the development of new medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and technologies, learning from experiences in the field of HIV/AIDS, among others, according to national priorities and strategies;

(*s*) Strengthen health-care infrastructure, including for procurement, storage and distribution of medicine, in particular transportation and storage networks to facilitate efficient service delivery;

International cooperation, including collaborative partnerships

46. Strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional and global plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation and health systems strengthening, training of health personnel, development of appropriate health-care infrastructure and diagnostics, and by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health in that regard;

47. Acknowledge the contribution of aid targeted at the health sector, while recognizing that much more needs to be done. We call for the fulfilment of all official development assistance-related commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015, as well as the commitments contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[13] and strongly urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments;

48. Stress the importance of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, to promote at the national, regional and international levels an enabling environment to facilitate healthy lifestyles and choices, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

49. Promote all possible means to identify and mobilize adequate, predictable and sustained financial resources and the necessary human and technical resources, and to consider support for voluntary, cost-effective, innovative approaches for a long- term financing of non-communicable disease prevention and control, taking into account the Millennium Development Goals;

50. Acknowledge the contribution of international cooperation and assistance in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and in this regard encourage the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agendas and initiatives;

51. Call upon the World Health Organization, as the lead United Nations specialized agency for health, and all other relevant United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial institutions, development banks and other key international organizations to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts;

52. Urge relevant international organizations to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries, especially to the least developed countries, in the areas of non-communicable disease prevention and control and promotion of access to medicines for all, including through the full use of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights flexibilities and provisions;

53. Enhance the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

54. Engage non-health actors and key stakeholders, where appropriate, including the private sector and civil society, in collaborative partnerships to promote health and to reduce non-communicable disease risk factors, including through building community capacity in promoting healthy diets and lifestyles;

55. Foster partnerships between government and civil society, building on the contribution of health-related non-governmental organizations and patients' organizations, to support, as appropriate, the provision of services for the prevention and control, treatment and care, including palliative care, of non-communicable diseases;

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[13] See *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

56. Promote the capacity-building of non-communicable-disease-related non-governmental organizations at the national and regional levels, in order to realize their full potential as partners in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

Research and development

57. Promote actively national and international investments and strengthen national capacity for quality research and development, for all aspects related to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, while noting the importance of continuing to incentivize innovation;

58. Promote the use of information and communications technology to improve programme implementation, health outcomes, health promotion, and reporting and surveillance systems and to disseminate, as appropriate, information on affordable, cost-effective, sustainable and quality interventions, best practices and lessons learned in the field of non-communicable diseases;

59. Support and facilitate non-communicable-disease-related research, and its translation, to enhance the knowledge base for ongoing national, regional and global action;

Monitoring and evaluation

60. Strengthen, as appropriate, country-level surveillance and monitoring systems, including surveys that are integrated into existing national health information systems and include monitoring exposure to risk factors, outcomes, social and economic determinants of health, and health system responses, recognizing that such systems are critical in appropriately addressing non-communicable diseases;

61. Call upon the World Health Organization, with the full participation of Member States, informed by their national situations, through its existing structures, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on continuing efforts to develop, before the end of 2012, a comprehensive global monitoring framework, including a set of indicators, capable of application across regional and country settings, including through multisectoral approaches, to monitor trends and to assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on non-communicable diseases;

62. Call upon the World Health Organization, in collaboration with Member States through the governing bodies of the World Health Organization, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on the work already under way, to prepare recommendations for a set of voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, before the end of 2012;

63. Consider the development of national targets and indicators based on national situations, building on guidance provided by the World Health Organization, to focus on efforts to address the impacts of non-communicable diseases and to assess the progress made in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors and determinants;

Follow-up

64. Request the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, and in consultation with Member States, United Nations funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations, to submit by the end of 2012 to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, for consideration by Member States, options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through effective partnership;

65. Request the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in this Political Declaration, including on the progress of multisectoral action, and the impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in preparation for a comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

RESOLUTION 66/3

Adopted at the 14th plenary meeting, on 22 September 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.2, submitted by the President of the General Assembly

66/3. United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly

Adopts the following political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:[14]

United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2011, on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[14]

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[14] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

1. Reaffirm that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in 2001,[14] and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, adopted in 2009,[15] provide a comprehensive United Nations framework and solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. Recall that the aim of this commemoration is to mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels, and reaffirm our political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, and their follow-up processes, at all these levels;

3. Welcome the progress made in many parts of the world in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001;

4. Acknowledge that, in spite of concerted efforts by the international community in the past ten years, building on efforts of the past decades, the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their new forms and manifestations, still persists in all parts of the world and that countless human beings continue to the present day to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. Reaffirm that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute a negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[16] and that equality and non-discrimination are fundamental principles of international law;

6. Recall, in that regard, the importance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[17] and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as well as of universal ratification and effective implementation of the Convention;

7. Resolve to pursue our common goal of ensuring the effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, especially for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all societies;

8. Welcome the initiative to erect a permanent memorial to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

9. Reiterate that the primary responsibility for effectively combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lies with States;

10. Welcome the adoption of legislative measures and the establishment of specialized national mechanisms to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

11. Call upon the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and invite all stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society and the private sector, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their efforts in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and welcome the continued engagement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in incorporating the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into the United Nations system;

12. Proclaim together our strong determination to make the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the protection of the victims thereof, a high priority for our countries.

RESOLUTION 66/5

Adopted at the 34th plenary meeting, on 17 October 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.3 and Add.1, sponsored by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia,

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[15] See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

[16] Resolution 217 A (III).

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

66/5. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/4 of 19 October 2009, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", and recalling also its prior decision to consider the sub-item every two years, in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games,

Recalling also its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, which, inter alia, revived the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria* ("Olympic Truce") calling for a truce during the Olympic Games that would encourage a peaceful environment and ensure the safe passage and participation of athletes and relevant persons at the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world to the cause of peace,

Recalling further that the core concept of *ekecheiria*, historically, was the cessation of hostilities from seven days before until seven days after the Olympic Games, which, according to the legendary oracle of Delphi, was to replace the cycle of conflict with a friendly athletic competition every four years,

Reaffirming the value of sport in promoting education, health, development and peace,

Recalling the inclusion in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[18] of an appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce now and in the future and for support for the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the Games of the XXX Olympiad will take place from 27 July to 12 August 2012, and that the XIV Paralympic Games will take place from 29 August to 9 September 2012, in London,

Welcoming the granting of observer status to the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly pursuant to the adoption of resolution 64/3 on 19 October 2009 and the participation of the Committee in the sessions and work of the Assembly,

Acknowledging the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, and the United Nations system in such fields as human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Noting the successful conclusion of the first Youth Olympic Games, held in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010, and welcoming the first Youth Winter Olympic Games, to be held in Innsbruck, Austria, from 13 to 22 January 2012, and the second Youth Olympic Games, to be held in Nanjing, China, from 16 to 28 August 2014,

Recalling the articles on leisure, recreation, sport and play of relevant international conventions, including article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[19] recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and noting that the 1948 Olympic Games, held in London, inspired the staging of the first organized sporting event for patients with spinal cord injuries, in Stoke Mandeville, near London, heralding the birth of a new global sporting movement for athletes with disabilities; the establishment of the Paralympic Games; and plans to stage integrated and inclusive Games for Everyone in 2012,

Recalling also that the main themes of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012 are to host genuinely sustainable Games that deliver long-term social, economic, environmental and sporting benefits, helping to promote more stable, inclusive and peaceful communities and urban regeneration, addressing climate change, enhancing international relations and cooperation, and changing attitudes towards disability; and to inspire young people around the world to enrich their lives through sport, for example through the introduction of International Inspiration, the London 2012 international legacy programme,

Welcoming the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations to developing national and international programmes which promote peace and conflict resolution and the Olympic and Paralympic values through sport and through culture, education, sustainable development and wider public engagement,

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[18] See resolution 55/2.

[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Recognizing the humanitarian opportunities presented by the Olympic Truce and by other initiatives supported by the United Nations to achieve the cessation of conflict, such as the International Day of Peace, established by General Assembly resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981,

Noting with satisfaction the flying of the United Nations flag at the Olympic Park,

1. *Urges* Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, throughout the period beginning with the start of the Games of the XXX Olympiad and ending with the close of the XIV Paralympic Games;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee to mobilize international sports organizations and the National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees of Member States to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce, and invites those organizations and national committees to share information and best practices, as appropriate;

3. *Also welcomes* the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

5. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee and, where appropriate, the International Paralympic Committee, to work towards a meaningful and sustainable contribution through sport to raising awareness of and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national and international sports organizations on the use of sport to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport and to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community in general in the realization of those objectives;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" and to consider the sub-item before the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Sochi, Russian Federation, in 2014.

RESOLUTION 66/6

Adopted at the 41st plenary meeting, on 25 October 2011, by a recorded vote of 186 to 2, with 3 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.4, sponsored by Cuba

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau

66/6. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments, *Recalling* the statements of the Heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as "the Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001, 57/11 of 12 November 2002, 58/7 of 4 November 2003, 59/11 of 28 October 2004, 60/12 of 8 November 2005, 61/11 of 8 November 2006, 62/3 of 30 October 2007, 63/7 of 29 October 2008, 64/6 of 28 October 2009 and 65/6 of 26 October 2010,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6 and 65/6, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 65/6;[20]

2. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

RESOLUTION 66/7

Adopted at the 48th plenary meeting, on 2 November 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.6 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia

66/7. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2010,[21]

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,[22] in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2011,

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[20] A/66/114.

[21] International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 2010* (GC(55)/2); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/66/95).

[22] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 46th meeting (A/66/PV.46), and corrigendum.

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency,

Recognizing also the cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency and the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency as approved by the General Conference of the Agency on 23 October 1957 and by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 1145 (XII) of 14 November 1957,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;[21]

2. *Takes note* of resolutions GC(55)/RES/9 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; GC(55)/RES/10 on nuclear security; GC(55)/RES/11 on the strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; GC(55)/RES/12 on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, comprising GC(55)/RES/12 A on non-power nuclear applications and GC(55)/RES/12 B on nuclear power applications; GC(55)/RES/13 on the implementation of the Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; GC(55)/RES/14 on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East; and GC(55)/RES/15 on personnel matters, comprising GC(55)/RES/15 A on the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat and GC(55)/RES/15 B on women in the Secretariat; and decisions GC(55)/DEC/10 on the amendment to article XIV.A of the Statute of the Agency; GC(55)/DEC/11 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Additional Protocol; and GC(55)/DEC/12 on the amendment to article VI of the Statute, adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-fifth regular session, held from 19 to 23 September 2011;[23]

3. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the indispensable role of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, in technology transfer to developing countries and in nuclear safety, verification and security;

4. *Appeals* to Member States to continue to support the activities of the Agency;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

RESOLUTION 66/9

Adopted at the 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.7 and Add.1, as orally revised, sponsored by: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain

66/9. Emergency humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on emergency humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Deeply disturbed by the loss of life that brought grief to so many families in Central America and by just how many people were affected by the Pacific tropical depression E-12 and the intense rainfall in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from 10 to 19 October 2011,

Aware of the extensive material damage to crops, housing, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas, which, inter alia, poses a severe threat to the food security of the people of Central America, particularly the poorest families, and of the adverse effects on economic activity and trade in the isthmus,

Also aware that the geography of Central American countries makes them especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of meteorological phenomena associated with climate change and other factors which, in recent years, have given rise to new risk scenarios, plunging the most vulnerable populations deeper into poverty and undermining efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals and promote more sustainable development for the people of Central America,

Recognizing the efforts of the Central American Governments to minimize loss of life and provide speedy assistance to the stricken population,

Considering the Declaration of Comalapa adopted at the special summit of Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Central American Integration System, held in San Salvador on 25 October 2011,

Also considering the enormous effort needed to rebuild the stricken areas and to address the serious situation left in the wake of a natural disaster which, over nine days, produced some of the heaviest rains ever seen in Central America, with twice the amount of rain recorded during hurricane Mitch in 1998, and that this effort will require the broad, coordinated and sustained support of the international community,

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[23] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Fifty-fifth Regular Session, 19–23 September 2011* (GC(55)/RES/DEC(2011)).

1. *Expresses its solidarity with and support* for the Governments and peoples of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have already provided timely assistance for rescue and aid efforts targeted at the stricken population, in particular, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, and commends the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts and progress made by Central American countries in strengthening their disaster-preparedness capacity, emphasizes the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction, and encourages the international community to continue to cooperate with the affected Governments towards this end;

4. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the international financial and development institutions, to continue to cooperate with Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama in their relief, rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance efforts and in rebuilding the region;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to support and assist national and regional capacity-building in the areas of natural disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation and risk management in the above-mentioned countries according to needs and in the specialized institution of the Central American Integration System, the Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and progress made in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the stricken countries.

RESOLUTION 66/10

Adopted at the 60th plenary meeting, on 18 November 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.5/Rev.1 and Add.1, as orally revised, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen

66/10. United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

The General Assembly,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Reaffirming its resolutions 60/288 of 8 September 2006, 62/272 of 5 September 2008, 64/235 of 24 December 2009 and 64/297 of 8 September 2010 concerning the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Noting with appreciation the contribution agreement to launch the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre signed by the United Nations and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 19 September 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre at United Nations Headquarters;

2. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to fund for three years the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office, to be funded through voluntary contributions;

3. *Notes* that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre will operate under the direction of the Secretary-General and will contribute to promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in contributing to the implementation of its activities in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

5. *Decides* to review the implementation of the present resolution at its sixty-eighth session within the existing reporting and review framework of the fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

RESOLUTION 66/11

Adopted at the 60th plenary meeting, on 18 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 123 to 4, with 6 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.9 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

Against: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Cuba, Viet Nam

66/11. Restoration of the rights of membership of Libya in the Human Rights Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 65/265 of 1 March 2011, in which it decided to suspend the rights of membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council,

Recalling further its resolution 66/1 A of 16 September 2011, in which it accepted the credentials of the representatives to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, including the credentials of the delegation of Libya,

Taking note of Human Rights Council resolution 18/9 of 29 September 2011,[24]

Welcoming the commitments made by Libya to uphold its obligations under international human rights law, to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to cooperate with relevant international human rights mechanisms, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-15/1 of 25 February 2011,[25]

Decides to restore the rights of membership of Libya in the Human Rights Council.

RESOLUTION 66/12

Adopted at the 61st plenary meeting, on 18 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 106 to 9, with 40 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.8 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen

* *In favour:* Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen

Against: Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Comoros, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Viet Nam

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[24] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. I.

[25] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

66/12. Terrorist attacks on internationally protected persons

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its role under the Charter, including on questions related to international peace and security,

Recalling the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, as well as Assembly resolutions 62/272 of 5 September 2008 and 64/297 of 8 September 2010 which reaffirmed the Strategy,

Recalling also the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents,[26]

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Convinced that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Concerned at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

Noting the note verbale dated 7 April 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General regarding hostile actions committed against diplomatic missions in the Islamic Republic of Iran,[27] and recalling the obligations of States regarding the protection, security and safety of diplomatic missions, consulates and personnel on their territories,

Emphasizing the duty of States to take all appropriate measures required by international law in a timely manner, including measures of a preventive nature, and to bring offenders to justice,

Noting the letter dated 14 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General regarding a disrupted plot to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America,[28] and noting also the statement of the Gulf Cooperation Council of 12 October 2011 and of the Council of the League of Arab States of 13 October 2011,[29]

Noting also the letter dated 11 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General reporting an Iranian plot,[30]

Noting further the letter dated 11 October 2011, from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council,[31]

Alarmed by the new and recurring acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, which endanger or take innocent lives and seriously impede the normal work of such representatives and officials,

Deeply concerned by the plot to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America,

1. *Reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation* of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

3. *Deplores* the plot to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America;

4. *Encourages* all States to take additional steps to prevent, on their territories, the planning, financing, sponsorship or organization or commission of similar terrorist acts and to deny safe haven to those who plan, finance, support or commit such terrorist acts;

5. *Calls upon* the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with all of its obligations under international law, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents,[26] particularly with respect to its obligations to provide law enforcement assistance, and to cooperate with States seeking to bring to justice all those who participated in the planning, sponsoring, organization and attempted execution of the plot to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America.

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[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1035, No. 15410.

[27] A/65/946.

[28] A/66/553.

[29] S/2011/640, annex.

[30] See A/66/517-S/2011/649.

[31] A/66/513-S/2011/633.

RESOLUTION 66/13

Adopted at the 62nd plenary meeting, on 21 November 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.10 and Add.1, sponsored by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

66/13. The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/8 of 4 November 2010 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1974 (2011) of 22 March 2011 and 2011 (2011) of 12 October 2011,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, the rule of law and development, as well as on the cross-cutting theme of counter-narcotics, is mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges in a coherent manner,

Recalling the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan, including the mutual commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences, held on 28 January and 20 July 2010, respectively, looking forward to the upcoming comprehensive review by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international stakeholders, of the mandated activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and of United Nations support in Afghanistan, with the aim of strengthening national ownership and leadership consistent with the Kabul process, and taking into account the evolving nature of the presence of the international community,

Looking forward to the International Afghanistan Conference on Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade, to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2011, chaired by the Government of Afghanistan, at which civil aspects of transition, the long-term commitment of the international community in Afghanistan within the region and the support of the political process will be further defined,

Supporting increased regional efforts towards the continued implementation of previous declarations of good-neighbourly relations, welcoming the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 November 2011, at which Afghanistan and its regional partners, with the support of the international community, affirmed their commitment to promoting regional security and cooperation through confidence-building measures, and looking forward to the first follow-up to the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan, scheduled to convene at the ministerial level in Kabul in June 2012,

Noting regional initiatives, such as those being implemented within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and other relevant initiatives aimed at increased regional economic cooperation with Afghanistan, such as the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Programme, and noting also the ministerial meeting to enhance trade connectivity along historical trade routes, held in New York on 22 September 2011,

Underlining the significance of the agreement reached between the Government of Afghanistan and countries contributing to the International Security Assistance Force, at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2010, to gradually transfer lead security responsibility in Afghanistan to the Government of Afghanistan country-wide by the end of 2014, welcoming the ongoing implementation of the transition, looking forward to its phased extension to the rest of the country, underlining the continuing role of the Assistance Force in support of the Government of Afghanistan and in promoting a responsible transition and the importance of the enhancement of the operational capabilities of the Afghan National Security Forces, stressing the long-term commitment, beyond 2014, of the international community to support the further development, including training, and professionalization of the Afghan National Security Forces and their capacity to counter continued threats to Afghanistan's security, with a view to establishing lasting peace, security and stability, and noting that these issues will be discussed at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Chicago, United States of America, in 2012, *Reiterating* the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and the development of Government of Afghanistan institutions, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law and democratic processes, the fight against corruption, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) of 17 June 2011 and other relevant resolutions, an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Deeply concerned about the continued high level of violence in Afghanistan, condemning in the strongest terms all violent attacks, and recognizing in that regard the continuously alarming threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats,

Expressing its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties, recalling that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups are responsible for the significant majority of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians,

Recognizing further progress made by the Assistance Force, authorized by the Security Council, and other international forces in ensuring the protection of the civilian population and in minimizing civilian casualties, and calling upon them to continue to make enhanced efforts in this regard, notably through the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate,

Noting the importance of the national Government being inclusive and representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

1. *Emphasizes* the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, expresses its appreciation and strong support for all efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in this regard, expresses its appreciation also for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in accordance with Security Council resolution 1974 (2011), stresses the leading role of the Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international civilian efforts, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership, and in this regard looks forward to the results of the upcoming comprehensive review of the mandated activities of the Assistance Mission and of United Nations support in Afghanistan, as mandated by the Council in resolution 1974 (2011);

2. *Welcomes* the reports of the Secretary-General[32] and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Pledges its continued support* to the Government and people of Afghanistan, as they rebuild a stable, secure, economically self-sufficient State, free of terrorism and narcotics, and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy, as a responsible member of the international community;

4. *Appreciates* the renewed commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to the Afghan people and the renewed commitment by the international community to Afghanistan expressed in the communiqués of the London[33] and Kabul[34] Conferences, reiterates in this regard its appreciation for the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, underlines the need for continued development and implementation, including costing plans, of the national priority programmes, and looks forward to the presentation of the remaining national priority programmes;

5. *Welcomes* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges, to that effect, the important work being done through the interministerial coordination mechanism and its role in prioritizing and implementing the National Development Strategy and the national priority programmes;

6. *Encourages* all partners to support constructively the Kabul process, building upon a deep and broad international partnership towards further increased Afghan responsibility and ownership in security, governance and development, aiming at a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan, focusing on strengthening the constitutional checks and balances that guarantee citizen rights and obligations, and implementing structural reform to enable an accountable and effective Government to deliver concrete progress to its people;

7. *Supports* the continuing and growing ownership of reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, and emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership and accountability in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the subnational level, in order to use aid more effectively;

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[32] A/65/612-S/2010/630, A/65/783-S/2011/120, A/65/873-S/2011/381 and A/66/369-S/2011/590.

[33] See S/2010/65, annex II.

[34] Available from www.unama.unmissions.org.

Security and transition

8. *Reiterates once again its serious concern* about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by the ongoing violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and reiterates in this regard its call for the full implementation of measures and application of procedures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011);

9. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all acts of violence and intimidation and attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including of public figures, abductions, the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, attacks against humanitarian workers and the targeting of Afghan and international forces, and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemns further the use, by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, of civilians as human shields;

10. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to continue to work closely together in countering these acts, which are threatening peace and stability in Afghanistan and the democratic process, the achievements and continued implementation of the Afghanistan reconstruction and development process as well as humanitarian aid measures, and calls upon all Member States to deny those groups any form of sanctuary or financial, material and political support;

11. *Expresses deep regret* at the resulting loss of life and physical harm inflicted upon Afghan civilians and civilians of other nationalities, including the personnel of Afghan and international agencies and all other humanitarian workers and the diplomatic corps, the Assistance Mission, as well as upon the personnel of the Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, and pays homage to all those who have lost their lives;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of sufficient security, calls upon the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan, and commends the Afghan National Security Forces and their international partners for their efforts in this regard;

13. *Notes* that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, and underlines the importance of further extending central government authority, including the strengthening of the presence of Afghan security forces, to all provinces of Afghanistan, consistent with the goal of transition;

14. *Expresses its support* for the objective of the Government of Afghanistan, as endorsed by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, to ensure that the Afghan National Security Forces have the necessary strength and operational capability to take over the lead security responsibility from the Assistance Force in all provinces by the end of 2014, and calls upon the international community to provide the support necessary to increase security, as well as to provide continued support by training, equipping and contributing to the financing of the Afghan National Security Forces to take on the task of securing their country;

15. *Welcomes* the start of the transition process for lead security responsibility in July 2011, as agreed upon by the Government of Afghanistan and the countries taking part in the Assistance Force, commends the continuing progress that has been made in this regard, looks forward to the further stages in the transition, also welcomes the commitment of Afghanistan's international partners to support the Government in creating the conditions necessary to allow for transition and to continue to support the transition process to enable it to advance to the point at which the Afghan National Security Forces are fully capable of meeting the security needs of the country, including public order, law enforcement, the security of Afghanistan's borders and preservation of the constitutional rights of Afghan citizens, and calls upon Member States to continue to support the transition process with the necessary continued financial and technical support;

16. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the presence of the Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, expresses its appreciation for the support they have provided to the Afghan National Army, as well as for the assistance provided to the Afghan National Police by international partners, in particular by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through its training mission in Afghanistan and by the European Gendarmerie Force contribution to that mission, acknowledges the continued deployment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan as well as other bilateral training programmes, and, in light of the transition process, encourages further coordination where appropriate;

17. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, with a view to ensuring stability and providing conditions for the effective rule of law, to continue the implementation of the Afghan National Police Strategy and the National Police Plan underpinning it, to build a strong, professional police force, with a focus on the ongoing institutional and administrative reforms of the Ministry of the Interior, including the implementation of its anti-corruption action plan, and leadership development, as well as to progressively enhance the quality and increase the strength of the Afghan National Police, with the necessary continued financial and technical support by the international community;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue contributing personnel, equipment and other resources to the Assistance

Force and to adequately support the evolution of the provincial reconstruction teams in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the Assistance Mission;

19. *Notes*, in the context of the comprehensive approach and the ongoing transition process, the continued importance of the synergies in the objectives of the Assistance Mission and the Assistance Force, and emphasizes, in particular, the continued need to maintain, strengthen and review civil-military relations among international actors, as appropriate, at all levels in order to ensure complementarity of action based on the different mandates and comparative advantages of the humanitarian, development, law enforcement and military actors present in Afghanistan;

20. *Urges* the Afghan authorities, with the support of the international community, to take all possible steps to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel and their full, safe and unhindered access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations, and notes the efforts made in regulating private security contractors operating in Afghanistan;

21. *Also urges* the Afghan authorities to make every effort, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks;

22. *Stresses* the importance of advancing the full implementation of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups throughout the country, under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, including security sector reform, community development, counter-narcotics, district-level development and Afghan-led initiatives to ensure that entities and individuals do not illegally participate in the political process, in particular in future elections, in accordance with adopted laws and regulations in Afghanistan;

23. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved by the Government of Afghanistan in the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups and its integration into the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, welcomes the continued commitment of the Government to work actively at the national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment, stresses the importance of all efforts to create sufficient legal income-earning opportunities, and calls for continued international support for these efforts;

24. *Remains deeply concerned* about the persisting problem of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger to the population and a major obstacle to the resumption of economic activities and to recovery and reconstruction efforts;

25. *Welcomes* the progress achieved through the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, supports the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[35] to cooperate fully with the Mine Action Programme coordinated by the United Nations and to eliminate all known or new stocks of anti-personnel landmines, and acknowledges the need for continued assistance from the international community in this regard;

26. *Notes* the ratification by Afghanistan of the Convention on Cluster Munitions;[36]

Peace, reconciliation and reintegration

27. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) succeeding resolutions 1267 (1999), and 1904 (2009) of 17 December 2009, welcomes also the establishment of the 1988 Committee and the measures in resolution 1988 (2011) with respect to individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, calls for the full implementation of measures and application of procedures introduced in the relevant Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1988 (2011), and calls for consultations, as appropriate, with the Government of Afghanistan as stipulated in resolution 1988 (2011);

28. *Expresses its support* for the Government of Afghanistan-led comprehensive process of peace and reconciliation, as recommended by the national Consultative Peace Jirga in June 2010, commends the renewed efforts of the Afghan Government, including the efforts of the High Peace Council and the ongoing implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme with the aim of promoting an inclusive dialogue between all Afghan groups, including those elements in opposition to the Government who are prepared to renounce violence, denounce terrorism, break ties with Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations and abide by the Afghan Constitution, and expresses its support for calls upon those concerned to engage in dialogue with the goal of meeting these conditions and reconcile and reintegrate, without prejudice to the implementation of measures and application of procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011) and all other relevant resolutions in this regard;

29. *Strongly condemns* the assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chairman of the High Peace Council, emphasizes the importance of all States with relevant information extending to the Afghan authorities the assistance they may need and all relevant information they may possess pertaining to this terrorist attack, stresses the need for calm and

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[35] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

[36] A/C.1/63/5, enclosure, part II.

solidarity in Afghanistan at this time and for all parties to reduce tensions, and expresses its firm commitment to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to advance the peace and reconciliation process, in line with the Kabul communiqué and within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1988 (2011) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

30. *Calls upon* all relevant States and international organizations to remain engaged in the Afghan-led peace process, and recognizes the impact terrorist attacks have on the Afghan people and risk having on future prospects for a peace settlement;

31. *Underlines* the fact that reconciliation efforts should enjoy the support of all Afghans, including civil society, minorities and women's groups;

32. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme is implemented in an inclusive manner consistent with the Afghan Constitution and the international legal obligations of Afghanistan, while upholding the human rights of all Afghans and countering impunity;

33. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund, recalls the respective commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences, and stresses the importance of continued contributions by the international community to the Trust Fund;

34. *Recognizes* the ongoing progress in the reconciliation with the Government of Afghanistan of those Taliban individuals who have rejected the terrorist ideology of Al-Qaida and its followers, abide by the Constitution and support a peaceful resolution to the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, calls upon the Taliban to accept the offer put forward by President Hamid Karzai to renounce violence, sever ties with terrorist groups, abide by the Constitution and join the peace and reconciliation process, and recognizes also that, notwithstanding the evolution of the situation in Afghanistan and progress in reconciliation, security remains a serious challenge in Afghanistan and the region;

35. *Also recognizes* the increased number of reintegrees who have joined the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, welcomes the results of the review conference of the Programme held in May 2011 and recent efforts to ensure its implementation, encourages further efforts to address remaining operational challenges, including through an appropriate vetting mechanism and by ensuring this work is linked to wider efforts to address conflict and grievance resolution at the local level, and further encourages the international community to support this Afghan-led effort;

Governance, rule of law and human rights

36. *Emphasizes* that good governance, the rule of law and human rights form the foundation for the achievement of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, and notes the importance of building the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to promote and protect human rights, the rule of law and governance in an accountable and effective manner;

A. Democracy

37. *Recognizes* the importance of holding free, fair, transparent, credible, secure and inclusive elections as crucial steps towards consolidating democracy for all Afghans, stresses the responsibility of the Afghan authorities in this regard, also stresses the need for the timely and orderly preparation of elections, calls upon the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, stresses the leading role of the Assistance Mission in coordinating these efforts, and calls upon the international community to support the Government of Afghanistan and the relevant Afghan institutions;

38. *Welcomes* the settlement of the institutional impasse after the decision to leave the Independent Electoral Commission with the final authority in electoral questions, reiterates the commitment of the Afghan Government in the Kabul communiqué to address long-term electoral reform, based on lessons learned in previous elections, including the 2010 parliamentary elections, and reaffirms that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in strengthened and transparent democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations;

B. Justice

39. *Also welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform and the commitment to improving access to the delivery of justice throughout Afghanistan made by the Government of Afghanistan at the Kabul Conference, stresses the need for further accelerated progress towards the establishment of a fair, transparent and effective justice system, in particular by implementing the National Justice Programme, the National Justice Strategy and the forthcoming National Priority Programme on Law and Justice for All in a timely manner and by providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in these areas in a coordinated manner;

40. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in devoting adequate resources to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

41. *Encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the Assistance Mission, the international community and other partners, including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, in protecting and preventing abuses of the human rights of those detained in

all Afghan prisons and detention facilities, consistent with the Afghan Constitution, Afghan laws and international obligations, and in ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law within Afghanistan, welcomes the cooperation of the Government of Afghanistan, as well as the efforts of the international community to provide support in this regard, takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Assistance Mission of 10 October 2011,[37] and reiterates the importance of following the appropriate legal procedures in order to ensure justice;

42. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations to all prisons in Afghanistan, and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, where applicable, including with regard to minors, if detained;

C. Public administration

43. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability, in accordance with the Kabul process, at both the national and subnational levels, with the support of the international community, welcomes the efforts of the Government and commitments made at the Kabul Conference in this regard, stresses the importance of transparent appointment and promotion procedures for civil servants, and continues to encourage the Government to make active use of the Senior Appointments Panel;

44. *Encourages* the international community, including all donor nations as well as international institutions and organizations, governmental and non-governmental, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority and to align, in a coordinated manner, with efforts by the Government, including the work of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, to build administrative capacity at the national and subnational levels;

45. *Reiterates* the importance of institution-building in complementing and contributing to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability, and emphasizes the connection between generating economic growth, including through infrastructural projects, and the creation of job opportunities in Afghanistan;

46. *Recalls* the ratification by Afghanistan of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[38] reiterates its appreciation for the anti-corruption commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the London and Kabul Conferences, calls for further action by the Government to fulfil those commitments in order to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of Government, welcomes continued international support to that end, and notes with deep concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, the combating of the narcotics industry and economic development;

47. *Welcomes* the principles of effective partnership set out in the communiqué of the Kabul Conference, in this context calls for the full implementation of the commitments made at the London Conference and reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference to align and channel increasing international resources through the budget of the Government of Afghanistan and in greater alignment with Afghan priorities, encourages all partners to work with the Government to implement the "Operational guide: criteria for effective off-budget development finance", to improve procurement procedures and due diligence in international contracting procedures and to promote Afghan parliamentary oversight of expenditures and development programming, and recalls that progress in this area requires that the necessary reforms of the public financial management systems be achieved, corruption be reduced, budget execution be improved and revenue collection be increased;

48. *Underlines* the importance of the recent agreement of the Government of Afghanistan with the International Monetary Fund on a three-year arrangement reaffirming the commitment to successful cooperation based on effective and transparent economic reforms;

49. *Welcomes* the Subnational Governance Policy, underscores the importance of more visible, accountable and capable subnational institutions and actors in reducing the political space for insurgents, emphasizes the importance of the Kabul process being accompanied by the implementation of national programmes at the subnational level, encourages the capacity-building and empowerment of local institutions in a phased and fiscally sustainable manner, and calls for the predictable and regular allocation of more resources to provincial authorities, including continued vital support from the Assistance Mission and the international community;

50. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land titling programme, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

D. Human rights

51. *Recalls* the constitutional guarantee of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans as a significant political achievement, calls for full respect for the

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[37] Available from www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4e93ecb22.html.

[38] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, and stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, in accordance with obligations under applicable international law, including those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

52. *Acknowledges and encourages* the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan in promoting respect for human rights, and expresses its concern at the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals for the enjoyment of human rights and for the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans, notes with concern reports of continued violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including violent or discriminatory practices, violations committed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and children, in particular girls, stresses the need to promote tolerance and religious freedom as guaranteed by the Afghan Constitution, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, and stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law;

53. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for its active participation in the universal periodic review process, calls for continued active participation of Afghan civil society in this process, and encourages the timely implementation of the recommendations addressed in the relevant report;

54. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, in this regard calls for full implementation of the mass media law, while noting with concern the continuing intimidation and violence targeting Afghan journalists and challenges to the independence of the media, condemns cases of the abduction and even killing of journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, and urges that harassment and attacks on journalists be investigated by Afghan authorities and that those responsible be brought to justice;

55. *Reiterates* the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to guarantee its constitutional status and implement its mandate, focusing on communities across Afghanistan, so as to foster a more informed public and increase Government accountability, welcomes the decision of the Government of Afghanistan to take full responsibility for the core funding of the Commission, urges the Commission to cooperate closely with Afghan civil society, and calls upon the international community for continued support in this regard;

56. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1674 (2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006, 1894 (2009) of 11 November 2009 and the mid-year report of July 2011 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, prepared by the Assistance Mission,[34] expresses its serious concern at the high number of civilian casualties, including women and children, and its impact on local communities, notes that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups remain responsible for the significant majority of civilian casualties, reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and calls for additional appropriate steps in this regard and for full compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

57. *Also recalls* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security, and reiterates the importance of upholding international obligations for the advancement of women's rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution;

58. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to mainstream gender issues, including into the national priority programmes, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by virtue of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[39] and by the Afghan Constitution and the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women, reiterates the continued importance of the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, and of equality before the law and equal access to legal counsel without discrimination of any kind, and stresses the need for continued progress on gender issues in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under international law;

59. *Strongly condemns* incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular if directed against women activists and women prominent in public life, wherever they occur in Afghanistan, including killings, maimings and "honour killings" in certain parts of the country;

60. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the Elimination of Violence against Women Special Fund of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as well as for its Urgent Response Fund, which continues to address targeted violence against women and women's rights defenders in Afghanistan, and stresses the need for continued financial contributions by the international community to those funds;

61. *Welcomes* the achievements and efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in countering discrimination, urges the Government to actively involve all elements of Afghan

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[39] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes, as well as in national priority programmes, and accurately track the progress of the full integration of women into political, economic and social life, stresses the need for continued progress on gender equality, in accordance with its obligations under international law and in the empowerment of women in Afghan politics and public administration, including in leadership positions and at the subnational level, also stresses the need to facilitate the access of women to employment and to ensure female literacy and training, and calls upon the international community to continue to provide support in this regard;

62. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, and recalls the need for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[40] and the two Optional Protocols thereto[41] by all States parties, as well as of Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on children and armed conflict;

63. *Expresses its concern*, in this regard, about the ongoing recruitment and use of children by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan, stresses the importance of ending the use of children contrary to international law, expresses appreciation for the progress achieved by and the firm commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, including its strong condemnation of any exploitation of children, as indicated by the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Steering Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Children, the appointment of a focal point on child protection and the signing by the Government of Afghanistan, in January 2011, of an action plan, including the annexes thereto, on children associated with national security forces in Afghanistan, and calls for the full implementation of the provisions of the action plan, in close cooperation with the Assistance Mission;

64. *Recognizes* the special needs of girls, strongly condemns terrorist attacks as well as threats of attacks on educational facilities, especially on those for Afghan girls, and/or hospitals and protected persons in relation to them in Afghanistan, in contravention of applicable international law, and expresses deep concern about the high number of school closures as a result of terrorist attacks or threats of attacks;

65. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, also welcomes initiatives to pass legislation on human trafficking, guided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[42] and stresses the importance of considering becoming a party to the Protocol;

Social and economic development

66. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations, including the international and regional financial institutions, to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with Afghan priorities and the National Development Strategy, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, and recalls in this regard the leading role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international efforts;

67. *Stresses* the need for a continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programmes, under the ownership of the Government of Afghanistan, of recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, while expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and development needs of Afghanistan despite security concerns and difficulties of access in certain areas;

68. *Expresses its appreciation* for the humanitarian and development assistance work of the international community in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, recognizes the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and support the development of the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development;

69. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to enhance efforts to reform key service delivery sectors, such as energy and drinking water supply, as preconditions for progress in social and economic development, commends the Government for its efforts to date to reach fiscal sustainability, notes the challenges ahead, and urges continued commitment to revenue generation;

70. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams as they work within the provincial context to support national priorities to build the capacities of local institutions;

71. *Encourages* the international community and the corporate sector to support the Afghan economy as a measure

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[40] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[41] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[42] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

for long-term stability and to explore possibilities for increased trade and investments and enhanced local procurements, and further encourages the Government of Afghanistan to continue to promote an economic environment favourable for private-sector investments at both the national and subnational levels;

72. *Urgently encourages* all States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to expand agricultural cooperation with Afghanistan, within the National Agricultural Development Framework and in line with the National Development Strategy, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty and ensure social and economic development, including in rural communities;

73. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children, especially Afghan girls, with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, welcomes the progress achieved in the sector of public education, recalls the National Education Strategic Plan as a promising basis for further achievements, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to expand those facilities, train professional staff and promote full and equal access to them by all members of Afghan society, including in remote areas, and reiterates further the need to provide vocational training for adolescents;

74. *Commends* the relief efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and donors, but continues to express its concern at the overall humanitarian situation, stresses the continued need for food assistance, and calls for continued international support for and the early fulfilment, before the approaching winter, of the funding targets of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Action Plan;

75. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment and lack of capacity increase the vulnerability of Afghanistan to natural disasters and to harsh climate conditions, and urges in this regard the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, to increase its efforts aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction at the national and subnational levels and at modernizing the agricultural sector and strengthening its agricultural production, thereby reducing the vulnerability of Afghanistan to adverse external conditions such as drought, flooding and other natural disasters;

76. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, and asks for continued generous support by the international community, with a view to facilitating their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return, rehabilitation and reintegration;

77. *Reiterates* to host countries and the international community the obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief agencies in order to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and calls upon countries to continue to accept an appropriate number of Afghan refugees for resettlement, as a manifestation of their shared responsibility and solidarity;

78. *Welcomes* the continued return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable manner, while noting with concern that conditions in parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to a safe and sustainable return to some places of origin;

79. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, acting with the support of the international community, to continue to strengthen its efforts to create the conditions for sustainable return by continuing to strengthen its absorption capacity for the full rehabilitation and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

80. *Notes*, in this regard, the continued constructive work between the countries of the region, as well as the tripartite agreements between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of Afghanistan and the Governments of countries hosting refugees from Afghanistan, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Regional cooperation

81. *Stresses* the crucial role of advancing constructive regional cooperation in promoting peace, security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, encourages further improved relations and enhanced engagement between Afghanistan and its neighbours, and calls for further efforts in this regard, including by regional organizations;

82. *Commends* the continuing efforts of the signatories of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002[43] to implement their commitments under the Declaration, calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of those provisions, and welcomes the reaffirmation, in the Kabul Conference communiqué, of the principles set out in the Declaration;

83. *Welcomes and encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbouring partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, and looks forward, where appropriate, to increasing cooperation between Afghanistan, all its neighbouring and regional partners and regional organizations against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups and in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, in the region and beyond;

84. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the increased efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, its neighbouring and regional partners and international organizations to foster trust and

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[43] S/2002/1416, annex.

cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations, including the trilateral summits of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey; Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan; Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States of America; and Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates; and the quadrilateral summits of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, as well as those of the Tripartite Commission, comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Assistance Force, and the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization;

85. *Also welcomes* the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, and encourages Afghanistan and its regional partners to actively endeavour to implement confidence-building measures within the framework set out in the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, adopted on 2 November 2011;[44]

86. *Expresses its appreciation* for all efforts to increase regional economic cooperation aimed at promoting economic cooperation between Afghanistan, regional neighbours, international partners and financial institutions, recognizes, inter alia, the important role of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Programme, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in promoting the development of Afghanistan, and looks forward to the Fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, to be held in Tajikistan on 26 and 27 March 2012;

87. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade and transit, including through regional and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan, noting the historic role of Afghanistan as a land bridge in Asia;

88. *Encourages* the Group of Eight countries to continue to stimulate and support cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours through mutual consultation and agreement, including on development projects in areas such as infrastructural connectivity, border management and economic development, and in this regard looks forward to the creation of the Afghan rail authority announced at the regional rail conference in Paris on 4 and 5 July 2011;

Counter-narcotics

89. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan, takes note of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011*, released in December 2011,[45] reiterates its deep concern about the increase in the cultivation and production of illicit narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, mainly concentrated in areas where the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals are particularly active, as well as the ongoing drug trafficking, and, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, stresses the need for strengthened joint, more coordinated and resolute efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international and regional actors as well as the Assistance Force, within their designated responsibilities, to fight this menace;

90. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, which, to be effective, must be integrated into the wider context of efforts carried out in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law and human rights, and economic and social development;

91. *Also stresses*, in this regard, that the development of alternative livelihood programmes is of key importance in the success of the counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan and that sustainable strategies require international cooperation, and urges the Government of Afghanistan, assisted by the international community, to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods in the formal production sector, as well as in other sectors, and to improve access to reasonable and sustainable credit and financing in rural areas, thus improving substantially the lives, health and security of the people, particularly in rural areas;

92. *Notes with great concern* the strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminal groups, which pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and development in Afghanistan, and stresses the importance of the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in this regard, including resolutions 1735 (2006) of 22 December 2006 and 1822 (2008) of 30 June 2008;

93. *Calls upon* all Member States, in this regard, to further intensify their efforts to reduce the demand for drugs in their respective countries and globally in order to contribute to

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[44] See A/66/601-S/2011/767.

[45] Available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop-monitoring/index.html.

the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan;

94. *Stresses* the need to prevent trafficking in and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacturing of drugs in Afghanistan, and calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) of 11 June 2008 in this regard;

95. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs from and precursors to Afghanistan and neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them in strengthening anti-narcotic controls and the monitoring of the international trade in chemical precursors, and underlines the importance of technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States to support their capacities in this regard;

96. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to work to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout all the national programmes and to ensure that counter-narcotics is a fundamental part of the comprehensive approach, as well as to increase its efforts against opium cultivation and drug trafficking in accordance with the balanced eight-pillar plan of the updated Afghan National Drug Control Strategy;

97. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, as well as the efforts to update and carry out the National Drug Control Strategy, including the Prioritized Implementation Plan and benchmarks, urges the Government and the international community to take decisive action, in particular to stop the processing of and trade in drugs, by pursuing the concrete steps set out in the Strategy and through initiatives such as the Good Performers Initiative established to provide incentives for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces, and encourages the Afghan authorities to work at the provincial level on elaborating counter-narcotics implementation plans;

98. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating the cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development for the creation of alternative livelihoods for farmers, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increased public awareness and the building of the capacity of drug control institutions and care and treatment centres for drug addicts, and reiterates its call upon the international community to channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government to the extent possible;

99. *Recalls* the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation with Afghanistan in its sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking, recognizes the threat posed by illicit drug production, trade and trafficking to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, also recognizes the progress achieved by relevant initiatives within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, stresses the importance of further progress in the implementation of these initiatives, and welcomes the upcoming ministerial meeting of the Paris Pact initiative to be held in Vienna, in continuation of the "Paris-Moscow" process, as well as the intent of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen international and regional cooperation in this regard;

100. *Pays homage* to all those who have innocently lost their lives in the fight against drug traffickers, in particular members of the security forces of Afghanistan and its neighbours;

101. *Welcomes* initiatives to enhance border management cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control, including the financial dimension, emphasizes the importance of pursuing such cooperation, especially through bilateral arrangements and those launched by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Anti-Drug Quartet and others, and welcomes the intention of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen international and regional cooperation with relevant partners in the field of border control;

102. *Stresses* the importance of further, effective cooperative support by relevant international and regional actors, including the United Nations and the Assistance Force, within its designated responsibilities, to Afghan-led sustained efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, welcomes in this regard the regional programme on Afghanistan and neighbouring countries of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages the respective countries to continue to participate;

103. *Acknowledges* the regional activities carried out by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan within the framework of their triangular initiative to counter narcotics, and welcomes the next ministerial meetings to be held in Kabul and Tehran, consecutively;

Coordination

104. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Assistance Mission as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 1974 (2011), and stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations in promoting a more coherent international engagement;

105. *Welcomes* the presence of the Assistance Mission in the provinces, which ensures that the United Nations can fulfil

its essential coordinating and support role, as requested by the Government of Afghanistan, security conditions permitting;

106. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the Assistance Mission is adequately resourced and protected by the Afghan authorities, with international support, as appropriate, to fulfil its mandate;

107. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, stresses that the role of the Board is to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, monitoring and supporting the Kabul process and coordinating international assistance and reconstruction programmes, and welcomes further efforts to provide appropriate guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;

108. *Expresses its appreciation for and emphasizes the importance* of the continued and long-term commitment of the international community to supporting the stability and development of Afghanistan, and recalls the additional international support as pledged;

109. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

110. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".

RESOLUTION 66/14

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 115 to 8, with 53 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.15 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

66/14. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution 65/13 of 30 November 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[46]

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Affirming its support for the Middle East peace process on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session[47] and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003,[48]

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences*

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[46] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/66/35).

[47] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[48] S/2003/529, annex.

of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[49] and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[50]

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report,[46] including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the Middle East peace process for the achievement of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and thereafter;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[47] and the Quartet road map;[48]

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

6. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee in the performance of its tasks;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

RESOLUTION 66/15

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 114 to 9, with 54 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.16 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany,

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[49] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[50] A/66/371-S/2011/592, annex I.

Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

66/15. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[51]

Taking note, in particular, of the action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution 65/14 of 30 November 2010,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 65/14;

2. *Considers* that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a most useful and constructive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard, and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

4. *Requests* the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, organize international meetings and conferences in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community, liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, develop and expand the "Question of Palestine" website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, prepare and widely disseminate publications and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine and develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. *Also requests* the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

RESOLUTION 66/16

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 168 to 8, with 3 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.17 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra

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[51] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/66/35).

Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Honduras, Tonga

66/16. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[52]

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 65/15 of 30 November 2010,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

Affirming its support for the Middle East peace process on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,[53] and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003,[54]

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[55]

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 65/15;

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2011–2012, in particular:

(*a*) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and the peace process, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the peace process;

(*b*) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning the relevant recent developments in that regard, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(*c*) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine displayed in the General Assembly building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(*d*) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

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[52] Ibid.

[53] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[54] S/2003/529, annex.

[55] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

(*e*) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and the peace process and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

(*f*) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular to strengthen the annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;

4. *Encourages* the Department to formulate ways for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

RESOLUTION 66/17

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 167 to 7, with 4 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.18 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Tonga

66/17. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling further relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008,

Recalling the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Noting with concern that it has been more than sixty years since the adoption of its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and forty-four years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 65/16 of 30 November 2010,[56]

Reaffirming the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[57] and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Convinced that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

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[56] A/66/367-S/2011/585.

[57] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

Stressing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Stressing the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, on efforts to resume and advance the peace process and to achieve peace in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole,

Reaffirming also that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the contiguity of the Territory and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and on the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access to the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[58] and the need for full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515 (2003), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict[59] and the call in Council resolution 1850 (2008) for the parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations, and recalling further in this regard the relevant Quartet statements, including that of 23 September 2011,[60]

Noting the Israeli withdrawal in 2005 from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map, and stressing in this regard the road-map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Recalling the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,[61]

Expressing support for the agreed principles for bilateral negotiations, as affirmed by the parties in the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Understanding reached at the international conference held in Annapolis, United States of America, on 27 November 2007,[62] aimed at concluding a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Reiterating support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850 (2008) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, for the advancement and acceleration of a resumed peace process,

Noting the important contribution to the peace process of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including within the framework of the activities of the Quartet,

Noting also the continuing efforts of the Quartet's Special Representative towards the resumption of the peace process, in particular the efforts to strengthen Palestinian institutions, promote Palestinian economic development and mobilize donor support,

Welcoming the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to

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[58] See A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[59] S/2003/529, annex.

[60] Available from www.unsco.org.

[61] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[62] Available from http://unispal.un.org.

Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, at United Nations Headquarters on 18 September 2011, at which, based on relevant reports by the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the donor countries reconfirmed the assessment that the institutions of the Palestinian Authority are above the threshold of a functioning State in the key sectors studied and reaffirmed the necessity of continued donor support for the Palestinian Authority,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure and commending, in this regard, the implementation of the Palestinian Authority's August 2009 plan for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State within a twenty-four-month period, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, in their reports to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on 13 April 2011,

Welcoming the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the security sector by the Palestinian Authority, calling upon the parties to continue cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Reiterating its concern over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property and infrastructure, the internal displacement of civilians and the serious deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the continuing prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, widespread damage and destruction to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure, public institutions, including hospitals and schools, and United Nations facilities, and internal displacement of civilians,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Expressing concern over continuing military actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including raids and arrest campaigns, and over the continued imposition of hundreds of checkpoints and obstacles to movement in and around Palestinian population centres by the Israeli occupying forces, and emphasizing in this regard the need for the implementation by both sides of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides,

Expressing the hope for speedy progress towards Palestinian reconciliation for the restoration of Palestinian unity, under the leadership of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments, and of the situation in the Gaza Strip to that which existed prior to June 2007, and calling for the continuation of the serious efforts being exerted by Egypt, the League of Arab States and other concerned parties towards the achievement of this aim,

Stressing the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to support both parties in resuming, advancing and accelerating the peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Noting the Quartet's determination in the recent period to support the parties throughout the negotiations, which can be completed and resolve all final status issues within one year, and in the implementation of an agreement between the two sides that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[63]

Acknowledging the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,[64]

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[63] A/66/371-S/2011/592, annex I.

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

2. *Also reaffirms* its full support for the Middle East peace process, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,[61] and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[59] and for the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, stresses the necessity for the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and welcomes in this regard the ongoing efforts of the Quartet and of the League of Arab States;

3. *Encourages* continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

4. *Urges* the parties to undertake, with the support of the Quartet and the international community, immediate and concrete steps in follow-up to the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Understanding reached at the international conference held in Annapolis,[62] including through the resumption of active and serious bilateral negotiations;

5. *Encourages*, in this regard, the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850 (2008), for the advancement and acceleration of a resumed peace process;

6. *Calls upon* both parties to act on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in particular adherence to the road map, irrespective of reciprocity, in order to create the conditions necessary for the resumption and accelerated advancement of negotiations in the near term;

7. *Calls upon* the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation and to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000;

8. *Calls upon* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity;

9. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability and fostering the peace process, including the need for the further release of prisoners following the exchange of prisoners in October 2011;

10. *Stresses* the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

11. *Also stresses* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

12. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009);

13. *Reiterates* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access, as well as for commercial flows and all necessary construction materials, which are essential for alleviating the humanitarian crisis, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

14. *Stresses*, in this regard, the urgent necessity for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including through the completion of numerous suspended projects managed by the United Nations and the accelerated implementation of United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities;

15. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Territory, including via the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations;

16. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian

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[64] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1, advisory opinion, para. 161; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

17. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road-map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

18. *Calls for* the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

19. *Demands*, accordingly, that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice[57] and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion;

20. *Reaffirms its commitment*, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

21. *Stresses* the need for:

(*a*) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(*b*) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

22. *Also stresses* the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

23. *Calls upon* the parties to resume and accelerate direct peace negotiations towards the conclusion of a final peaceful settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, especially of the Security Council, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative;

24. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

RESOLUTION 66/18

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 164 to 7, with 5 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.19 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Panama, Tonga

66/18. Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem, *Recalling also* its resolution 36/120 E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 56/31 of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling further the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" on Jerusalem,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[65] and recalling its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its grave concern about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern also, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudge a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

Expressing its grave concern further about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes, the revocation of residency rights and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city,

Expressing its concern about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

Reaffirming that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,[66]

1. *Reiterates its determination* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. *Stresses* that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/19

Adopted at the 69th plenary meeting, on 30 November 2011, by a recorded vote of 119 to 7, with 53 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.20 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe, Palestine

* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago,

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[65] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[66] A/66/338.

Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

66/19. The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,[67]

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[68] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907,[69] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[68] continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/68

Adopted at the 76th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.22 and Add.1, sponsored by: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Honduras, Iceland, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United States of America

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[67] Ibid.

[68] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[69] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

66/68. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its annual resolutions on sustainable fisheries, including resolution 65/38 of 7 December 2010, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"),[70] and bearing in mind the relationship between the Convention and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Agreement"),[71]

Welcoming the recent ratifications of and accessions to the Agreement and the fact that a growing number of States, entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement, and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, have taken measures, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement,

Welcoming also the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries and the 2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted on 12 March 2005,[72] and recognizing that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("the Code")[73] and other related instruments, including its international plans of action, set out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices for conservation of fisheries resources and the management and development of fisheries,

Welcoming further the outcomes, including the decisions and recommendations, of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries, held in Rome from 31 January to 4 February 2011,[74]

Noting with concern that effective management of marine capture fisheries has been made difficult in some areas by unreliable information and data caused by, inter alia, unreported and misreported fish catch and fishing effort and that this lack of accurate data contributes to overfishing in some areas,

Recognizing the significant contribution of sustainable fisheries to food security, income, wealth and poverty alleviation for present and future generations,

Welcoming in this regard the decision of the Committee on Fisheries at its twenty-ninth session that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should develop a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code, and that should be voluntary in nature and focus on the needs of developing countries,[74]

Recognizing the urgent need for action at all levels to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wide application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches,

Expressing concern over the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on food security and the sustainability of fisheries, and noting in that regard the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Deploring the fact that fish stocks, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in many parts of the world are overfished or subject to sparsely regulated and heavy fishing efforts, as a result of, inter alia, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, inadequate flag State control and enforcement, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, inadequate regulatory measures, harmful fisheries subsidies and overcapacity, as well as inadequate port State control, as highlighted in the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010*,[75]

Expressing its support for the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,

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[70] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[71] Ibid., vol. 2167, No. 37924.

[72] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Outcome of the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, Rome, 12 March 2005* (CL 128/INF/11), appendix B.

[73] *International Fisheries Instruments with Index* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.

[74] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 31 January–4 February 2011*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 973 (FIPI/R973 (En)).

[75] Available from www.fao.org/corp/publications/en.

Concerned that a limited number of States have taken measures to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[76]

Recalling the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[76]

Particularly concerned that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing constitutes a serious threat to fish stocks and marine habitats and ecosystems, to the detriment of sustainable fisheries as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States,

Concerned that some operators increasingly take advantage of the globalization of fishery markets to trade fishery products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and make economic profits from those operations, which constitutes an incentive for them to pursue their activities,

Recognizing that effective deterrence and combating of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has significant financial and other resource implications,

Recognizing also the duty provided in the Convention, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas ("the Compliance Agreement"),[77] the Agreement and the Code for flag States to exercise effective control over fishing vessels flying their flag, and vessels flying their flag which provide support to fishing vessels, to ensure that the activities of such fishing and support vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

Recognizing further the importance of adequately regulating, monitoring and controlling trans-shipment at sea to contribute to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities,

Acknowledging the convening by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance, in Rome from 2 to 6 May 2011, and noting the resumed session of the Technical Consultation, to be held in Rome from 5 to 9 March 2012,

Noting the obligation of all States, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources, and recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, subregional as well as national levels in the areas, inter alia, of marine scientific research, data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training for the conservation, management and sustainable development of living marine resources,

Welcoming the holding of the third joint meeting of the five regional fisheries management organizations with competence to regulate highly migratory species, in San Diego, United States of America, from 12 to 14 July 2011,

Acknowledging the importance of ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction to sustainable development, promoting safety at sea and limiting human vulnerability to natural disasters, due to their use in weather and marine forecasts, fisheries management, tsunami forecasts and climate prediction, and expressing concern that most damage to ocean data buoys, such as moored buoys and tsunameters, frequently results from actions taken by some fishing operations which render the buoys inoperable,

Welcoming, in this regard, the adoption of measures by States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to protect ocean data buoy systems from the impacts of fishing activities,

Recognizing the need for States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to continue to develop and implement, consistent with international law, effective port State measures to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the critical need for cooperation with developing States to build their capacity, and the importance of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

Noting with satisfaction the recent ratification of, accessions to and approval of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[78]

Welcoming the decision of the Committee on Fisheries at its twenty-ninth session that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should form an open-ended working group or similar mechanism to draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group envisioned in article 21 of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing,[74]

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[76] Available from www.fao.org/fishery/publications/en.

[77] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2221, No. 39486.

[78] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-sixth Session, Rome, 18–23 November 2009* (C 2009/REP and Corr.1), appendix E.

Welcoming also the convening of the third Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, in Maputo from 28 February to 4 March 2011,

Concerned that marine pollution from all sources constitutes a serious threat to human health and safety, endangers fish stocks, marine biodiversity and marine and coastal habitats and has significant costs to local and national economies,

Recognizing that marine debris is a global transboundary pollution problem and that, due to the many different types and sources of marine debris, different approaches to their prevention and removal are necessary,

Noting that the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to global fish supplies continues to respond to opportunities in developing countries to enhance local food security and poverty alleviation and, together with the efforts of other aquaculture-producing countries, will make a significant contribution to meeting future demands in fish consumption, bearing in mind article 9 of the Code,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable aquaculture to food security, and concerned about the potential effects of genetically engineered aquatic fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks,

Welcoming the approval by the Committee on Fisheries at its twenty-ninth session of Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification,[79]

Noting the publication in 2011 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of Technical Guidelines on the Use of Wild Fish as Feed in Aquaculture,[80]

Calling attention to the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities whose livelihoods, economic development and food security are heavily dependent on sustainable fisheries and will suffer disproportionately if sustainable fisheries are negatively affected,

Calling attention also to the circumstances affecting fisheries in many developing States, in particular African States and small island developing States, and recognizing the urgent need for capacity-building, including the transfer of marine technology and in particular fisheries-related technology, to enhance the ability of such States to exercise their rights in order to realize the benefits from fisheries resources and fulfil their obligations under international instruments,

Recognizing the need for appropriate measures to minimize by-catch, waste, discards, including high-grading, loss of fishing gear and other factors which adversely affect the sustainability of fish stocks and, consequently, can also have harmful effects on the economies and food security of small island developing States, other developing coastal States, and subsistence fishing communities,

Welcoming the endorsement by the Committee on Fisheries at its twenty-ninth session of the International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards,[81]

Recognizing the need to further integrate ecosystem approaches into fisheries conservation and management and, more generally, the importance of applying ecosystem approaches to the management of human activities in the ocean, and noting in this regard the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem,[82] the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the importance of this approach to relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Code, as well as decision VII/11[83] and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing also the economic and cultural importance of sharks in many countries, the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to overexploitation, the fact that some are threatened with extinction, the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries, and the relevance of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1999,[76] in providing guidance on the development of such measures,

Reaffirming its support for the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements on the conservation and management of sharks, and noting with concern that basic data on shark stocks and harvests continue to be lacking, that only a small number of countries have implemented the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and that not all regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have adopted conservation and management measures for directed shark fisheries and for the regulation of by-catch of sharks from other fisheries,

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[79] Available from www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2296t/i2296t00.htm.

[80] Available from www.fao.org/fishery/publications/technical-guidelines/en.

[81] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards, Rome, 6–10 December 2010*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 957 (FIRO/R957 (En)), appendix E.

[82] E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/3, annex.

[83] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex.

Welcoming science-based measures taken by States to conserve and sustainably manage sharks, and noting in this respect management measures taken by coastal States, including limits on catch or fishing effort, technical measures, including by-catch reduction measures, sanctuaries, closed seasons and monitoring, control and surveillance,

Recognizing the importance of marine species occupying low trophic levels in the ecosystem and for food security, and the need to ensure their long-term sustainability,

Expressing concern over continued incidental mortality, in fishing operations, of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels, as well as other marine species, including sharks, fin-fish species, marine mammals and marine turtles, while recognizing considerable efforts by States and through various regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to reduce incidental mortality as a result of by-catch,

I

Achieving sustainable fisheries

1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention,[70] in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in Part V and Part VII, section 2, of the Convention, and where applicable, the Agreement;[71]

2. *Encourages* States to give due priority to the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[84] in relation to achieving sustainable fisheries, especially restoring depleted stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of addressing the sustainable development of fisheries in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and recognizing the significant contribution of fisheries to the three pillars of sustainable development;

4. *Urges* States, either directly or through appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations or arrangements, to intensify efforts to assess and address, as appropriate, the impacts of global climate change on the sustainability of fish stocks and the habitats that support them, in particular the most affected ones;

5. *Emphasizes* the obligations of flag States to discharge their responsibilities, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, to ensure compliance by vessels flying their flag with the conservation and management measures adopted and in force with respect to fisheries resources on the high seas;

6. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, taking into account the relationship between the Convention and the Agreement;

7. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply widely, in accordance with international law and the Code,[73] the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and also calls upon States parties to the Agreement to implement fully the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

8. *Encourages* States to increase their reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures, and to increase their efforts, including through international cooperation, to promote science for conservation and management measures that apply, in accordance with international law, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, enhancing understanding of ecosystem approaches, in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations[85] as a framework for the improvement and understanding of fishery status and trends;

9. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply stock-specific precautionary reference points, as described in annex II to the Agreement and in the Code, to ensure that populations of harvested stocks and, where necessary, associated or dependent species, are maintained at or restored to sustainable levels, and to use these reference points for triggering conservation and management action;

10. *Encourages* States to apply the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures addressing, inter alia, by-catch, pollution and overfishing, and protecting habitats of specific concern, taking into account

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[84] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[85] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 24–28 February 2003*, FAO fisheries Report No. 702 (FIPL/R702 (En)), appendix H.

existing guidelines developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Also encourages* States to enhance or develop observer programmes, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, in order to improve data collection on, inter alia, target and by-catch species, which could also assist monitoring, control and surveillance tools, and to take into account standards, forms of cooperation and other existing structures for such programmes as described in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

12. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards; and, where they do not exist, to establish processes to strengthen data collection and reporting by members of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through regular reviews of member compliance with such obligations, and, when such obligations are not met, require the member concerned to rectify the problem, including through the preparation of plans of action with timelines;

13. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the implementation and further development of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System initiative;

14. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of resolution 61/105 of 8 December 2006, and calls upon States, including through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to urgently adopt measures to fully implement the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks[76] for directed and non-directed shark fisheries, based on the best available scientific information, through, inter alia, limits on catch or fishing effort, by requiring that vessels flying their flag collect and regularly report data on shark catches, including species-specific data, discards and landings, undertaking, including through international cooperation, comprehensive stock assessments of sharks, reducing shark by-catch and by-catch mortality and, where scientific information is uncertain or inadequate, not increasing fishing effort in directed shark fisheries until measures have been established to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark stocks and to prevent further declines of vulnerable or threatened shark stocks;

15. *Calls upon* States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

16. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to regulate highly migratory species to strengthen or establish precautionary, science-based conservation and management measures, as appropriate, for sharks taken in fisheries within their convention areas consistent with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

17. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twenty-ninth session that the Organization should prepare a report on the extent of implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks,[74] and requests the Organization also to report on the challenges being faced by its members States in implementing that instrument and paragraph 14 of the present resolution;

18. *Urges* States to eliminate barriers to trade in fish and fisheries products which are not consistent with their rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements, taking into account the importance of the trade in fish and fisheries products, particularly for developing countries;

19. *Urges* States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources;

20. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to analyse, as appropriate, the impact of fishing for marine species occupying low trophic levels;

21. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider the potential effects of genetically engineered fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and to provide guidance, consistent with the Code, on minimizing harmful impacts in this regard;

II

Implementation of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

22. *Calls upon* all States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement,

that have not done so to ratify or accede to the Agreement and in the interim to consider applying it provisionally;

23. *Calls upon* States parties to the Agreement to effectively implement, as a matter of priority, the provisions of the Agreement through their domestic legislation and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of those provisions of the Agreement relating to bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in enforcement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

25. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof to inform, either directly or through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, all States whose vessels fish on the high seas in the same subregion or region of the form of identification issued by those States parties to officials duly authorized to carry out boarding and inspection functions in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

26. *Also urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to designate an appropriate authority to receive notifications pursuant to article 21 and to give due publicity to such designation through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement;

27. *Invites* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to adopt procedures for high seas boarding and inspection that are consistent with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

28. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence over discrete high seas fish stocks, to adopt the necessary measures to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of such stocks in accordance with the Convention and consistent with the Code and the general principles set forth in the Agreement;

29. *Invites* States to assist developing States in enhancing their participation in regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, including by facilitating access to fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with article 25, paragraph 1 (*b*), of the Agreement, taking into account the need to ensure that such access benefits the developing States concerned and their nationals;

30. *Invites* States and international financial institutions and organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance according to Part VII of the Agreement, including, if appropriate, the development of special financial mechanisms or instruments to assist developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, including developing their domestically flagged fishing fleet, value-added processing and the expansion of their economic base in the fishing industry, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by States to the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make further voluntary financial contributions to the Fund;

32. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat ("the Division") have taken measures to publicize the availability of assistance through the Assistance Fund, and encourages the Organization and the Division to continue their efforts in this regard;

33. *Encourages* accelerated progress by States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, regarding the recommendations of the Review Conference on the Agreement, held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006,[86] and the identification of emerging priorities;

34. *Encourages* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the resumed Review Conference, held in New York from 24 to 28 May 2010;[87]

35. *Reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist;

36. *Also reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken;

III

Related fisheries instruments

37. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the provisions of the Compliance Agreement,[77] and urges continued efforts in this regard;

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[86] See A/CONF.210/2006/15, annex.

[87] See A/CONF.210/2010/7, annex.

38. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Compliance Agreement that have not yet become parties to that Agreement to do so as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to consider applying it provisionally;

39. *Urges* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to implement and promote the application of the Code within their areas of competence;

40. *Urges* States to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, national and, as appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

41. *Encourages* the development of best practice guidelines for safety at sea in connection with marine fisheries by the competent international organizations;

42. *Also encourages* widespread participation at the diplomatic conference convened by the International Maritime Organization in South Africa in 2012 for the purpose of adopting an agreement on the implementation of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

IV

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

43. *Emphasizes once again its serious concern* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems and continues to have serious and major implications for the conservation and management of ocean resources, as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States, and renews its call upon States to comply fully with all existing obligations and to combat such fishing and urgently to take all necessary steps to implement the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;[76]

44. *Urges* States to exercise effective control over their nationals, including beneficial owners, and vessels flying their flag, in order to prevent and deter them from engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities or supporting vessels engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, including those vessels listed by regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements as engaged in those activities, and to facilitate mutual assistance to ensure that such actions can be investigated and proper sanctions imposed;

45. *Also urges* States to take effective measures, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to deter the activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, of any vessel which undermines conservation and management measures that have been adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with international law;

46. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas or in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and to take specific measures, including deterring the reflagging of vessels by their nationals, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

47. *Urges* States, individually and collectively through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop appropriate processes to assess the performance of States with respect to implementing the obligations regarding fishing vessels flying their flag set out in relevant international instruments;

48. *Encourages* States within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue the work of the Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance with regard to the draft criteria for flag State performance, assessing flag State performance and possible actions in accordance with international law to encourage compliance, and assistance to developing countries to improve their performance as flag States;

49. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, where necessary, the international legal framework for intergovernmental cooperation, in particular at the subregional and regional levels, in the management of fish stocks and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in a manner consistent with international law, and for States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities;

50. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to further coordinate measures for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, such as through the development of a common list of vessels identified as engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or the mutual recognition of the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel lists established by each organization or arrangement;

51. *Reaffirms its call upon* States to take all necessary measures consistent with international law, without prejudice to a State's sovereignty over ports in its territory and to reasons of force majeure or distress, including the prohibition of vessels from accessing their ports followed by a report to the flag State concerned, when there is clear evidence that they are or have been engaged in or have supported illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or when they refuse to give information either on the origin of the catch or on the authorization under which the catch has been made;

52. *Reaffirms* paragraph 48 of resolution 65/38 with regard to eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

by vessels flying "flags of convenience" and requiring that a "genuine link" be established between States and fishing vessels flying their flags, and urges States operating open registry to effectively control all fishing vessels flying their flag, as required by international law, or otherwise stop open registry for fishing vessels;

53. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and urges States to cooperate, in particular at the regional level and through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt all necessary port measures, consistent with international law taking into account article 23 of the Agreement, and to further promote the development and application of standards at the regional level;

54. *Encourages*, in this regard, States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing[78] with a view to its early entry into force;

55. *Encourages* strengthened collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization, taking into account the respective competencies, mandates and experience of the two organizations, to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in improving the implementation of flag State responsibilities and port State measures;

56. *Encourages* States, with respect to vessels flying their flag, and port States, to make every effort to share data on landings and catch quotas, and in this regard encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider developing open databases containing such data for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of fisheries management;

57. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not engage in trans-shipment of fish caught by fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through adequate regulation, monitoring and control of trans-shipment of fish at sea, including through additional national measures applicable to vessels flying their flag to prevent such trans-shipment;

58. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt and implement internationally agreed market-related measures in accordance with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in World Trade Organization agreements, as called for in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

59. *Encourages* information-sharing regarding emerging market- and trade-related measures by States and other relevant actors with appropriate international forums, given the potential implications of these measures for all States, consistent with the established plan of work of the Committee on Fisheries, and taking into account the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[80]

60. *Notes* the concerns about possible connections between international organized crime and illegal fishing in certain regions of the world, and encourages States, including through the appropriate international forums and organizations, to study the causes and methods of and contributing factors to illegal fishing to increase knowledge and understanding of those possible connections, and to make the findings publicly available, and in this regard takes note of the study issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, bearing in mind the distinct legal regimes and remedies under international law applicable to illegal fishing and international organized crime;

V

Monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement

61. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with international law, to strengthen implementation of or, where they do not exist, adopt comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance measures and compliance and enforcement schemes individually and within those regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in which they participate, in order to provide an appropriate framework for promoting compliance with agreed conservation and management measures, and further urges enhanced coordination among all relevant States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in these efforts;

62. *Encourages* further work by competent international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop guidelines on flag State control of fishing vessels;

63. *Urges* States, individually and through relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish mandatory vessel monitoring, control and surveillance systems, in particular to require that vessel monitoring systems be carried by all vessels fishing on the high seas as soon as practicable, recalling that paragraph 62 of resolution 63/112 of 5 December 2008 urged that large-scale fishing vessels be required to carry vessel monitoring systems no later than December 2008, and to share information on fisheries enforcement matters;

64. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to strengthen or establish, consistent with national and international law, positive or negative lists of vessels fishing within the areas covered by relevant regional fisheries

management organizations and arrangements in order to promote compliance with conservation and management measures and to identify products from illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, and encourages improved coordination among all States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in sharing and using this information, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

65. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with States, regional economic integration organizations, the International Maritime Organization and, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to expedite efforts to develop and manage a comprehensive global record, including with a unique vessel identifier system;

66. *Requests* States and relevant international bodies to develop, in accordance with international law, more effective measures to trace fish and fishery products to enable importing States to identify fish or fishery products caught in a manner that undermines international conservation and management measures agreed in accordance with international law, taking into account the special requirements of developing States and the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement, and at the same time to recognize the importance of market access, in accordance with provisions 11.2.4, 11.2.5 and 11.2.6 of the Code, for fish and fishery products caught in a manner that is in conformity with such international measures;

67. *Requests* States to take the necessary measures, consistent with international law, to help to prevent fish and fishery products caught in a manner that undermines applicable conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with international law from entering international trade;

68. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report on the state of progress in the development of best practice guidelines for catch documentation schemes and traceability, for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on fisheries to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

69. *Encourages* States to establish and undertake cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities in accordance with international law to strengthen and enhance efforts to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures, and prevent and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

70. *Urges* States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to develop and adopt effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures for trans-shipment, as appropriate, in particular at-sea trans-shipment, in order to, inter alia, monitor compliance, collect and verify fisheries data, and to prevent and suppress illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, in accordance with international law and, in parallel, to encourage and support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in studying the current practices of trans-shipment and produce a set of guidelines for this purpose;

71. *Expresses its appreciation* for financial contributions from States to improve the capacity of the existing voluntary International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-Related Activities, and encourages States to join and actively participate in the Network and to consider supporting, when appropriate, its transformation in accordance with international law into an international unit with dedicated resources to further assist Network members, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

VI

Fishing overcapacity

72. *Calls upon* States to commit themselves to urgently reducing the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, through the establishment of target levels and plans or other appropriate mechanisms for ongoing capacity assessment, while avoiding the transfer of fishing capacity to other fisheries or areas in a manner that undermines the sustainable management of fish stocks, including those areas where fish stocks are overexploited or in a depleted condition, and recognizing in this context the legitimate rights of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks consistent with article 25 of the Agreement, article 5 of the Code, and paragraph 10 of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[76]

73. *Reiterates its call upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to ensure that the urgent actions required in the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity are undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation is facilitated without delay;

74. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report on the state of progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, as provided for in paragraph 48 of the Plan of Action;

75. *Calls upon* States individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to regulate highly migratory species, urgently to address global fishing capacity for tunas, inter alia, in a way that recognizes the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular small island developing States, to participate in and benefit from such fisheries, taking into account the recommendations of the Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

International Workshop on RFMO Management of Tuna Fisheries, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 29 June to 1 July 2010 and the recommendations of the third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, in July 2011;

76. *Encourages* those States which are cooperating to establish subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, taking into account the best scientific information available as well as the precautionary approach, to exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort levels in those areas that will come under the regulation of the future organizations and arrangements until adequate regional conservation and management measures are adopted and implemented, taking into account the need to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the relevant fish stocks and to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

77. *Urges* States to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity and to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including by accelerating work to complete World Trade Organization negotiations on fisheries subsidies in accordance with the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration[88] to clarify and improve and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration[89] to strengthen disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of the fisheries sector to developing countries;

VII

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing

78. *Expresses concern* that, despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, the practice of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing still exists and remains a threat to living marine resources;

79. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the provisions of resolution 46/215 and subsequent resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in order to eliminate the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets in all seas and oceans, which means that efforts to implement resolution 46/215 should not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift nets that contravene the resolution;

80. *Also urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the present global moratorium on the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets on the high seas, and calls upon States to ensure that vessels flying their flag that are duly authorized to use large-scale drift nets in waters under their national jurisdiction do not use such gear for fishing while on the high seas;

81. *Reaffirms* the request in paragraph 6 of resolution 46/215 for the submission of information to the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to include this information in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

VIII

Fisheries by-catch and discards

82. *Urges* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations that have not done so to take action, including with consideration of the interests of developing coastal States and, as appropriate, subsistence fishing communities, to reduce or eliminate by-catch, catch by lost or abandoned gear, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code, and in particular to consider measures including, as appropriate, technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries, the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile fish, taking into account the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of such information, and support for studies and research that will reduce or eliminate by-catch of juvenile fish, and to ensure that these measures are implemented so as to optimize their effectiveness;

83. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, taking into account the best available scientific information on fishing methods, including fish aggregating devices, to minimize by-catch;

84. *Urgently calls upon* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and, where appropriate, other relevant international organizations to develop and implement effective management measures to reduce the incidence of catch of non-target species, including the utilization of selective fishing gear, where appropriate;

85. *Calls upon* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to adopt or improve measures to assess the impact of their fisheries on species caught as by-catch and to improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of information and reporting on incidental catch of species caught as by-catch, including through adequate observer coverage and the use of modern technologies, and to provide assistance to developing States to meet data collection and reporting obligations;

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[88] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[89] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC.

86. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable estimates of shark, marine turtle, fin-fish, marine mammal and sea bird by-catch, and to promote further research on selective fishing gear and practices and on the use of appropriate by-catch mitigation measures;

87. *Encourages* States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement to give due consideration to participation, as appropriate, in subregional and regional instruments and organizations with mandates to conserve non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations;

88. *Encourages* States to strengthen, if necessary, the capacity of those subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate to ensure the adequate conservation of non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations, taking into consideration best practices for non-target species management, and to expedite their ongoing efforts in this regard;

89. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements urgently to implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the 2004 Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations[90] and the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations[76] in order to prevent the decline of sea turtles and seabird populations by minimizing by-catch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries, including through research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promoting the use of available by-catch mitigation technology, and establishing and strengthening data-collection programmes to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the by-catch of these species;

90. *Also requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take urgent action to reduce the by-catch of seabirds, including albatrosses and petrels, in fisheries by adopting and implementing conservation measures consistent with the 2009 best practices technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support implementation of the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries[80] and taking into account the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels[91] and of organizations such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

IX

Subregional and regional cooperation

91. *Urges* coastal States and States fishing on the high seas, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and other relevant instruments, to pursue cooperation in relation to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to ensure the effective conservation and management of such stocks;

92. *Urges* States fishing for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas, and relevant coastal States, where a subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement has the competence to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to give effect to their duty to cooperate by becoming members of such an organization or participants in such an arrangement, or by agreeing to apply the conservation and management measures established by such an organization or arrangement, or to otherwise ensure that no vessel flying their flag is authorized to access the fisheries resources to which regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements or conservation and management measures established by such organizations or arrangements apply;

93. *Invites*, in this regard, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that all States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned may become members of such organizations or participants in such arrangements, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Code;

94. *Encourages* relevant coastal States and States fishing on the high seas for a straddling fish stock or a highly migratory fish stock, where there is no subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to cooperate to establish such an organization or enter into another appropriate arrangement to ensure the conservation and management of such stocks, and to participate in the work of the organization or arrangement;

95. *Urges* all signatory States and other States whose vessels fish within the area of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean[92] for fishery resources covered by that Convention to become parties to that Convention as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to ensure that vessels flying their flags fully comply with the measures adopted;

96. *Welcomes* the recent ratification of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and encourages signatory States and States having a real interest to become parties to it, and

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[90] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand, 29 November–2 December 2004*, FAO Fisheries Report No. 765 (FIRM/R765 (En)), appendix E.

[91] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2258, No. 40228.

[92] Ibid., vol. 2221, No. 39489.

urges those States to agree on and implement interim measures, including measures in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117, 119, 120, 122 and 123 of resolution 64/72 of 4 December 2009, to ensure the conservation and management of the fisheries resources and their marine ecosystems and habitats in the area to which that Agreement applies until such time as that Agreement enters into force;

97. *Takes note* of recent efforts at the regional level to promote responsible fishing practices, including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

98. *Welcomes* the recent ratifications of and accession to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and encourages further ratifications, accessions, acceptances and approvals of that Convention with a view to its early entry into force;

99. *Encourages* States, regional economic integration organizations and the entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean that participated in the negotiation of that Convention to fully implement the voluntary interim measures that have been adopted to give effect to paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 until that Convention has entered into force and conservation and management measures have been adopted;

100. *Also encourages* States, regional economic integration organizations and the entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean that participated in the negotiation of that Convention to fully implement the voluntary interim measures that have been adopted and to voluntarily restrain fishing effort and catches to avoid overexploitation of certain pelagic fisheries resources in the area to which that Convention will apply until it has entered into force and conservation and management measures have been adopted, and to take into account the scientific advice given by the Science Working Group in the adoption of future interim measures that should apply to certain pelagic fisheries resources before the entry into force of that Convention, and further calls for full and accurate reporting of catches in accordance with the interim measures;

101. *Notes with satisfaction* the conclusion of negotiations to establish a regional fisheries management organization in the North Pacific, and encourages participating States to implement fully interim voluntary measures adopted in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117, 119, 120, 122 and 123 of resolution 64/72;

102. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts of the members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to strengthen the functioning of the Commission so that it can more effectively discharge its mandate, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide members of the Commission with the necessary assistance to this end;

103. *Encourages* signatory States and States having a real interest to become parties to the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

104. *Welcomes* the recent approval of the 2007 Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries[93] by some Contracting Parties to that Convention, and encourages the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to approve the Amendment with a view to its early entry into effect;

105. *Urges* further efforts by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as a matter of priority, in accordance with international law, to strengthen and modernize their mandates and the measures adopted by such organizations or arrangements, and to implement modern approaches to fisheries management, as reflected in the Agreement and other relevant international instruments, relying on the best scientific information available and application of the precautionary approach and incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and biodiversity considerations, including the conservation and management of ecologically related and dependent species and protection of their habitats, where these aspects are lacking, to ensure that they effectively contribute to long-term conservation and management and sustainable use of living marine resources, and welcomes those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have taken steps in this direction;

106. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks that have not yet adopted effective conservation and management measures in line with the best scientific information available to conserve and manage stocks falling under their mandate to do so urgently;

107. *Urges* States to strengthen and enhance cooperation among existing and developing regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate, including increased communication and further coordination of measures, such as through the holding of joint consultations, and to strengthen integration, coordination and cooperation by such regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with other relevant fisheries organizations, regional seas arrangements and other relevant international organizations;

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[93] Ibid., vol. 1135, No. 17799.

108. *Urges* the five regional fisheries management organizations with competence to manage highly migratory species to continue to take measures to implement the Course of Actions adopted at the second joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to consider the recommendations of the third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

109. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage straddling fish stocks to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

110. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve transparency and to ensure that their decision-making processes are fair and transparent, rely on the best scientific information available, incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, address participatory rights, including through, inter alia, the development of transparent criteria for allocating fishing opportunities which reflects, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of the Agreement, taking due account, inter alia, of the status of the relevant stocks and the respective interests in the fishery;

111. *Welcomes* the 2010 performance review of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the 2011 performance review of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and the fact that a number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have completed performance reviews, and encourages the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of their respective reviews as a matter of priority;

112. *Urges* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have not done so, to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, initiated either by the organization or arrangement itself or with external partners, including in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, using transparent criteria based on the provisions of the Agreement and other relevant instruments, and taking into account the best practices of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and, as appropriate, any set of criteria developed by States or other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, and encourages that such performance reviews include some element of independent evaluation and propose means for improving the functioning of the regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, as appropriate;

113. *Encourages* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to make the results of those performance reviews publicly available and to discuss the results jointly, and furthermore to consider undertaking performance reviews on a regular basis;

114. *Urges* States to cooperate, taking into account those performance reviews, to develop best practice guidelines for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to apply, to the extent possible, those guidelines to organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

115. *Encourages* the development of regional guidelines for States to use in establishing sanctions for non-compliance by vessels flying their flag and by their nationals, to be applied in accordance with national law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits deriving from their illegal activities, as well as in evaluating their systems of sanctions to ensure that they are effective in securing compliance and deterring violations;

X

Responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem

116. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to enhance their efforts to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries, taking into account paragraph 30 (*d*) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[84]

117. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations, to work to ensure that fisheries and other ecosystem data collection is performed in a coordinated and integrated manner, facilitating incorporation into global observation initiatives, where appropriate;

118. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, working in cooperation with other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to adopt, as appropriate, measures to protect ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction from actions that impair their operation;

119. *Encourages* States to increase scientific research on the marine ecosystem in accordance with international law;

120. *Calls upon* States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other specialized agencies, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, where appropriate, and other appropriate intergovernmental bodies, to cooperate in achieving sustainable aquaculture including through information exchange, developing equivalent standards on such issues as aquatic animal health and human health and safety concerns, assessing the potential positive and negative impacts of aquaculture, including socioeconomics, on the marine and coastal environment, including biodiversity, and adopting relevant methods and techniques to minimize and mitigate adverse effects, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the 2007 Strategy and Outline Plan for

Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[94] as a framework for the improvement and understanding of aquaculture status and trends;

121. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue implementing the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("the Guidelines")[95] in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from destructive fishing practices, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain;

122. *Reaffirms* the importance of paragraphs 80 to 90 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 113 to 127 of resolution 64/72 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the actions called for in those resolutions, and emphasizes the need for full implementation by all States and relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of their commitments under those paragraphs on an urgent basis;

123. *Recalls* that nothing in the paragraphs of resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 and the present resolution addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems prejudices the sovereign rights of coastal States over their continental shelf or the exercise of the jurisdiction of coastal States with respect to their continental shelf under international law as reflected in the Convention, in particular article 77 thereof;

124. *Notes in this regard* the adoption by coastal States of conservation measures regarding their continental shelf to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

125. *Welcomes* the important progress made by States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations in establishing a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to implement paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

126. *Also welcomes* the substantial ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and urges States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 119, 120 and 122 to 124 of resolution 64/72 are consistent with the Guidelines;

127. *Takes note* of the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations workshop on the implementation of the Guidelines, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 12 May 2010;[96]

128. *Welcomes* the convening by the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 128 of resolution 64/72, of the workshop to discuss implementation of paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117 and 119 to 127 of resolution 64/72, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, held in New York on 15 and 16 September 2011;

129. *Considers*, on the basis of the review carried out in accordance with paragraph 129 of resolution 64/72, that despite the progress made, the urgent actions called for in the relevant paragraphs of resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 have not been fully implemented in all cases, and in this regard further actions in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law and consistent with the Guidelines are needed to strengthen the continued implementation, and in this regard calls upon States, through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements and flag States to take the following urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(*a*) To strengthen procedures for carrying out assessments to take into account individual, collective and cumulative impacts, and for making the assessments publicly available, recognizing that doing so can support transparency and capacity-building globally;

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[94] Available from www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0445t/i0445t00.htm.

[95] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Rome, 4–8 February and 25–29 August 2008*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 881 (FIEP/R881 (Tri)), appendix F.

[96] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the FAO Workshop on the Implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas – Challenges and Ways Forward, Busan, Republic of Korea, 10–12 May 2010*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 948 (FIPI/R948(En)).

(*b*) To establish and improve procedures to ensure that assessments are updated when new conditions or information so require;

(*c*) To establish and improve procedures for evaluating, reviewing and revising, on a regular basis, assessments based on best available science and management measures;

(*d*) To establish mechanisms to promote and enhance compliance with applicable measures related to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, adopted in accordance with international law;

130. *Notes* that not all impact assessments have been made publicly available, and calls upon States, consistent with domestic law, and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to publish all assessments without delay;

131. *Recognizes* that different types of marine scientific research, including seabed mapping carried out in different parts of the oceans, have resulted in identification of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems occur and in the adoption of conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, including the closure of areas to bottom fishing in accordance with paragraph 119 (*b*) of resolution 64/72;

132. *Encourages*, in this regard, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements and flag States to consider the results available from marine scientific research, including those obtained from seabed mapping programmes concerning the identification of areas containing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with international law as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

133. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to undertake further research on deep-sea species and ecosystems and assessments of fishing activities on target and non-target species, consistent with the Guidelines and in accordance with the Convention, including Part XIII of the Convention;

134. *Recognizes in particular* the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of resolution 64/72, paragraph 129 of the present resolution and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on special requirements of developing countries;

135. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in facilitating implementation by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of the Guidelines, to consider undertaking the following work as part of its ongoing programme for deep-sea fisheries:

(*a*) To compile, clarify the use of and make available technical guidance on encounter protocols and related mitigation measures, including encounter thresholds and move-on distances;

(*b*) To develop guidance on the application of criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems contained in the Guidelines;

(*c*) To develop guidance for conducting assessments, including addressing risk assessment on individual, collective and cumulative impacts, and to promote better standardization of such assessments;

(*d*) To support and facilitate work on deep-sea high seas stock assessments to ensure that such fisheries are sustainable;

(*e*) To continue its work in creating a global database on information on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

136. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider convening a meeting of scientists from regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fishing and States to examine impact assessments, in order to propose best practices, as well as standards for implementation of such assessments, including addressing risk assessment;

137. *Decides* to conduct a further review in 2015 of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 117 and 119 to 127 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126 and 129 to 136 of the present resolution, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary;

138. *Encourages* accelerated progress to establish criteria on the objectives and management of marine protected areas for fisheries purposes, and in this regard welcomes the proposed work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop technical guidelines in accordance with the Convention and the Code on the design, implementation and testing of marine protected areas for such purposes, and urges coordination and cooperation among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

139. *Notes in this regard* the adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to

29 October 2010, of a new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;[97]

140. *Urges* all States to implement the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[98] and to accelerate activity to safeguard the marine ecosystem, including fish stocks, against pollution and physical degradation;

141. *Acknowledges* the serious environmental impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, and encourages States to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[99]

142. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to paragraphs 77 to 81 of resolution 60/31 of 29 November 2005 concerning the issue of lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear and related marine debris and the adverse impacts such debris and derelict fishing gear have on, inter alia, fish stocks, habitats and other marine species, and urges accelerated progress by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in implementing those paragraphs of the resolution;

143. *Encourages* further studies, including by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the impacts of underwater noise on fish stocks and fishing catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects;

144. *Calls upon* States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to play an active role in global efforts to conserve and sustainably use living marine resources, so as to contribute to marine biological diversity;

145. *Encourages* States, either individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to identify any spawning and nursery areas for fish stocks under their jurisdiction or competence and, where required, to adopt science-based measures to conserve such stocks during these critical life stages;

XI

Capacity-building

146. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of cooperation by States directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant subregional and regional organizations, and by other international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through its FishCode programme, including through financial and/or technical assistance, in accordance with the Agreement, the Compliance Agreement, the Code and its associated international plans of action,[76] to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the present resolution;

147. *Welcomes* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing guidance on the strategies and measures required for the creation of an enabling environment for small-scale fisheries, and encourages studies for creating possible alternative livelihoods for coastal communities;

148. *Encourages* increased capacity-building and technical assistance by States, international financial institutions and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for fishers, in particular small-scale fishers, in developing countries, and in particular small island developing States, consistent with environmental sustainability, in recognition of the fact that food security and livelihoods may depend on fisheries;

149. *Encourages* the international community to enhance the opportunities for sustainable development in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal African States, by encouraging greater participation of those States in authorized fisheries activities being undertaken within areas under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with the Convention, by distant-water fishing nations in order to achieve better economic returns for developing countries from their fisheries resources within areas under their national jurisdiction and an enhanced role in regional fisheries management, as well as by enhancing the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries, in conformity with international law, in particular the Convention and the Agreement, and taking into account article 5 of the Code;

150. *Requests* distant-water fishing nations, when negotiating access agreements and arrangements with developing coastal States, to do so on an equitable and sustainable basis and to take into account their legitimate expectation to fully benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources of their exclusive economic zones, to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the laws and regulations of the developing coastal States adopted in accordance with international law and to give greater attention to fish processing and fish-processing facilities within the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State to assist the realization of the benefits from the development of fisheries resources and also to the transfer of technology and assistance for monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement within areas under the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State providing fisheries access, taking into account the forms of cooperation set out in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

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[97] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

[98] See A/51/116, annex II.

[99] Available from www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0620e/i0620e00.htm.

151. *Encourages* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide greater assistance and to promote coherence in such assistance for developing States in designing, establishing and implementing relevant agreements, instruments and tools for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including in designing and strengthening their domestic regulatory fisheries policies and those of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in their regions, and the enhancement of research and scientific capabilities through existing funds, such as the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement, bilateral assistance, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements assistance funds, the FishCode programme, the World Bank's global programme on fisheries and the Global Environment Facility;

152. *Encourages* States to provide technical and financial support to developing countries to address their special requirements and challenges in implementing the Guidelines;

153. *Calls upon* States to promote, through continuing dialogue and the assistance and cooperation provided in accordance with articles 24 to 26 of the Agreement, further ratifications of or accessions to the Agreement by seeking to address, inter alia, the issue of lack of capacity and resources that might stand in the way of developing States becoming parties;

154. *Notes with appreciation* the compilation prepared by the Secretariat of the needs of developing States for capacity-building and assistance in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the sources of available assistance for developing States to address such needs;[100]

155. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant bodies to assist developing States in the implementation of the actions called for in paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72;

156. *Urges* States and regional economic integration organizations, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to mainstream efforts to assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, with other relevant international development strategies with a view to enhancing international coordination to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, consistent with the duty to ensure the conservation and management of those resources, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates;

157. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations to develop strategies to further assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, in fully realizing the benefits from the catch of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and in strengthening regional efforts to sustainably conserve and manage such stocks, and in this regard, to make available such information;

XII

Cooperation within the United Nations system

158. *Requests* the relevant parts of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States;

159. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue its cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies on the implementation of the international plans of action and to report to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in his annual report on sustainable fisheries, on priorities for cooperation and coordination in this work;

XIII

Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

160. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the report on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 113 to 117 and 119 to 127 of resolution 64/72 on sustainable fisheries, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, prepared by the Division,[101] as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

161. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him by the Convention, the Agreement and the related resolutions of the General Assembly and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

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[100] Available from www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/compilation2009updated.pdf.

[101] A/66/307.

XIV

Sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

162. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

163. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments, taking into account information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, subregional and regional organizations and arrangements for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as well as other relevant intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, and consisting, inter alia, of elements provided in relevant paragraphs in the present resolution;

164. *Notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and the effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries, decides that the informal consultations on this resolution will be held in a single round of consultations in November for a period of six days, and invites States to submit text proposals for inclusion in the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations no later than four weeks before the start of the consultations;

165. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", and to consider the possibility of including this sub-item in future provisional agendas on a biennial basis.

RESOLUTION 66/114

Adopted at the 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.25 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

66/114. Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" and subsequent resolutions entitled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade",

Recalling also the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Recognizing how little is known about the transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the annual commemoration by the General Assembly has brought to the issue, including raising awareness in many States,

Noting the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,[102]

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

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[102] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

Stressing the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recalling that the permanent memorial initiative complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project, including its commemorative activities,

1. *Endorses* the initiative of Member States to erect, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, a permanent memorial in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Recalls* the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library and civil society;

3. *Also recalls* the establishment of a trust fund for the permanent memorial, referred to as the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial, administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the current status of contributions to the Trust Fund;[103]

4. *Recognizes* the necessity of sustained voluntary contributions in order to achieve in a timely manner the goal of erecting a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

5. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States that have already made contributions to the Trust Fund, encourages additional contributions, and invites Member States and other interested parties that have not done so to do likewise;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a series of activities annually to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters and, as appropriate, activities through the network of United Nations information centres;

7. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative, and to facilitate efforts to erect the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

8. *Reiterates its request*, in resolution 64/15 of 16 November 2009, for Member States to develop, in accordance with their national legislation, educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade, and to provide such information to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report;

9. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Permanent Memorial Committee to serve as the framework for cooperation in implementing the initiative to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

10. *Also welcomes* the recent launch of the international design competition for the permanent memorial, and encourages the broadest possible participation and submission of designs from all geographical regions of the world;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assist the Permanent Memorial Committee in identifying qualified candidates, including from its pool of international specialists, to serve on the independent international panel of judges to select the winning design;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery[104] relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including actions taken by Member States in implementing the present resolution, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the status of the Trust Fund and, in particular, on contributions received and their utilization;

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[103] See A/66/162.

[104] A/66/382.

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade".

RESOLUTION 66/115

Adopted at the 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.24 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Uruguay

66/115. Global health and foreign policy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 63/33 of 26 November 2008, 64/108 of 10 December 2009 and 65/95 of 9 December 2010,

Recalling also the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, especially those related to global health,

Reaffirming the commitment to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5 and 6, as expressed in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[105] and in this regard welcoming the report of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health,[106]

Welcoming the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[107] the outcome of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS, held in New York, from 8 to 10 June 2011, and reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein,

Welcoming also the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,[108] adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2011, and reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein,

Welcoming further the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, adopted at the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 19 to 21 October 2011,

Noting with concern that for millions of people throughout the world, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, still remains a distant goal and that in many cases, especially for children and people living in poverty, the likelihood of achieving this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

Acknowledging that inequities in access to health care can increase during times of crisis, particularly for persons living with disabilities, and that special efforts should be made to maintain public health-care and primary health-care functions during these periods,

Acknowledging also that improvement of unfavourable social and economic conditions is primarily a social and economic policy issue and that most of the underlying risk factors for tuberculosis, malaria, HIV and AIDS and maternal and infant mortality, as well as for non-communicable diseases, are associated with social and economic conditions,

Recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health,

Bearing in mind the long-term health consequences of exposure to nuclear radiation for the affected populations and the need for the international community to be better prepared to respond collectively, including through the full implementation of the International Health Regulations,[109]

Recalling that, according to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007,[110] projected exposure to climate change is likely to affect the health status of millions of people, particularly those with low adaptive capacity,

Noting the role of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative in promoting synergy between foreign policy and global health, as well as the contribution of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration,[111] which was reaffirmed, with renewed actions and commitments, by the ministerial declaration of 22 September 2010,[112]

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[105] See resolution 65/1.

[106] Available from www.who.int/topics/millenium_development_goals/accountability_commission/en/index.html.

[107] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[108] Resolution 66/2, annex.

[109] Available from www.who.int/ihr/en/.

[110] Available from www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/contents.html.

[111] A/63/591, annex.

Welcoming the adoption by the sixty-fourth World Health Assembly on 24 May 2011 of resolution 64.5 on pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits,[113]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the note by the Secretary-General[114] transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization and the recommendations contained in the report on improving coordination, coherence and effectiveness of governance for global health and addressing the social determinants of health;

2. *Calls for* more attention to health as an important cross-cutting policy issue on the international agenda;

3. *Encourages* Member States to continue to consider the close relationship between global health and foreign policy and to recognize that global health challenges entail concerted and sustained efforts to further promote a global policy environment supportive of global health;

4. *Invites* Member States to adopt a multisectoral approach, while taking into consideration the social determinants of health, with a view to reducing health inequities and enabling sustainable development, and stresses the urgent need to act on social determinants for the final push towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to protect economic and social development and to recognize the importance of universal coverage in national health systems, especially through primary health-care and social protection mechanisms, including nationally determined social protection floors, so as to provide access to health services for all, in particular the poorest segments of the population;

5. *Reiterates* the need to fully implement the International Health Regulations,[109] as part of the emergency responses to health and environment-related issues;

Health and the environment

6. *Reaffirms* that human beings are at the centre of concerns related to sustainable development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;

7. *Also reaffirms* the leading role of the World Health Organization and the important role of the United Nations system in meeting the challenges of global health in a changing environment and enhancing the visibility of health issues in the different international forums;

8. *Further reaffirms* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[115] and the objectives and principles set out therein, and the commitment to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, in order to achieve its ultimate objective;

9. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts to address, as appropriate, the social determinants of exposure to environmental hazards and their current and projected consequences on health;

10. *Calls for* more attention to health-related issues in the global environmental agenda as well as for more attention to environmental issues in the health agenda, and calls upon the international community to acknowledge the direct linkages between health and the environment;

11. *Urges* Member States to promote at all levels the integration of health concerns, including of people living in vulnerable situations, into strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

12. *Encourages* the development of multisectoral policies with a view to limiting not only the detrimental impact of human intervention and environmental degradation on but also the current and projected consequences of climate change for health;

13. *Encourages* Member States to link health and the environment in their national development plans and, through education and training at all levels, to develop national capacities to better prevent diseases related to the environment;

14. *Reaffirms* that the development of national and international policies on environmental protection has a beneficial effect on health;

15. *Stresses* the need to foster research on environmental risk factors and social determinants of health;

16. *Also stresses* the need to strengthen national monitoring mechanisms for measuring the impacts of the environment on health, identifying emerging risks and evaluating the progress made and to strengthen national risk assessment and early warning mechanisms for identifying, assessing and addressing health vulnerabilities posed by environmental degradation;

17. *Calls for* increased international, regional and subregional cooperation and assistance, including through the mobilization of resources and the transfer of knowledge, technology and expertise, on mutually agreed terms, so as to enhance the capacity of developing countries to manage risks, including through the development and sustainability of the infrastructure and scientific, technological, technical and institutional capacities needed to research, observe, analyse,

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[112] See A/65/538.

[113] See World Health Organization, *Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 16–24 May 2011, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA64/2011/REC/1).

[114] A/66/497.

[115] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

map and, where possible, forecast natural and environmental hazards, vulnerabilities and disaster impacts;

18. *Reiterates* the importance of launching international capacity-building initiatives that assess health and environmental linkages and use the knowledge gained to create more effective national and regional policy responses to environmental threats to human health;

19. *Encourages*, in this regard, greater international cooperation on sharing best practices and providing technical assistance and assistance in capacity-building to developing countries in the implementation of their national policies;

20. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the important role of health for the achievement of sustainable development, including in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

Health and natural disasters

21. *Expresses grave concern* at the increase in the number of people affected by natural disasters, and stresses the need to address their health needs;

22. *Underlines* the crucial role of health in emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters, as well as the need to fully integrate health into strategies for disaster risk reduction and sustainable recovery;

23. *Recognizes* the primary role of national and local authorities in responding to disasters and the leading role of the World Health Organization, as the lead of the Global Health Cluster, in the provision of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations system, and as a partner of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in supporting relief efforts and enhancing disaster preparedness;

24. *Also recognizes* the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirms that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance in natural disasters must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development;

25. *Welcomes* the adoption by the sixty-fourth World Health Assembly on 24 May 2011 of resolution 64.10 on strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and resilience of health systems, on 20 May 2011 of resolution 64.1 on implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and on 24 May 2011 of resolution 64.24 on drinking water, sanitation and health;[113]

26. *Stresses* the continued need for coordination in natural disasters among the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the World Health Organization, other relevant United Nations organizations, humanitarian organizations, the World Bank and regional development banks so as to enhance effectiveness of health responses and to strengthen preparedness and response capacity of national and local health authorities, in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary and leading role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

27. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in monitoring the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[116] including in the health sector;

28. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen all-hazards health emergency and disaster risk-management programmes, including disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, water and sanitation and epidemic control, and to integrate them into national and international health plans;

29. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts, as appropriate, to address the social determinants of vulnerabilities to disasters and their current and projected consequences for health;

30. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening the preparedness of health systems for emergencies, including through programmes on safe and prepared hospitals and training for health-care workers;

31. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the involvement of communities in disaster preparedness and response in order to enhance their resilience;

Follow-up actions

32. *Urges* Member States to continue to consider health issues in the formulation of foreign policy;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and with the participation of relevant programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant multilateral institutions, as appropriate, and in consultation with Member States, to give high priority to generating and collecting comparable and reliable data on the interlinkages between health and environment, and health and natural disasters, and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Global health and foreign policy", a report which reflects on these interlinkages and contains recommendations for improving the management of health risks arising from environmental disasters.

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[116] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

RESOLUTION 66/116

Adopted at the 83rd plenary meeting, on 12 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.23 and Add.1, sponsored by: Afghanistan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Togo, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam

66/116. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recalling also its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009 and 65/11 of 23 November 2010, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration[117] and Programme of Action[118] on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[119] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[120]

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,[121]

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Noting that its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict could contribute to the further promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking into account the "Manifesto 2000" initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has received over seventy-five million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

Recognizing the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Welcoming the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of resolution 65/11, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[122]

Welcoming also the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue,[123]

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as the International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity, and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Appreciating the increased ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and corporate leaders,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and

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[117] Resolution 53/243 A.

[118] Resolution 53/243 B.

[119] See resolution 55/2.

[120] See resolution 60/1.

[121] See resolution 61/271.

[122] See A/66/273.

[123] A/66/280.

Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[118] is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

3. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the action areas of the Programme of Action in their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the regional, national and international levels;

4. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for which the promotion of a culture of peace is the expression of its fundamental mandate, for further strengthening the activities it has undertaken to promote a culture of peace, including the promotion of peace education and the dissemination of the Declaration on a Culture of Peace[117] and the Programme of Action and related materials in various languages across the world;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider the feasibility of creating a special fund under the Organization to cater to the country-specific projects for the effective promotion of a culture of peace;

6. *Commends* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

8. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education, in children's schools, that includes lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

10. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace;

11. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action;

12. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in mobilizing all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website,[124] in order to promote the objectives of the newly adopted programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence at the regional, national and global levels;

13. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, including the International Day of Peace Non-Governmental Organization Committee at the United Nations, to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on actions undertaken to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

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[124] www3.unesco.org/iycp/.

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

RESOLUTION 66/117

Adopted at the 86th plenary meeting, on 15 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.26 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

66/117. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling all relevant resolutions on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution 65/132 of 15 December 2010, as well as Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003 and relevant statements by the President of the Council,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and presidential statements and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Recalling further all relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as all relevant treaties,[125]

Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming also the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments which respect the internationally agreed principles on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, while expressing concern over the lack of respect for these principles in some areas,

Urging all parties involved in armed conflicts, in compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[126] and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,[127] to ensure the security and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Welcoming the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[128] which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has continued to rise, the number now having reached eighty-nine, mindful of the need to promote the universality of the Convention, and welcoming the entry into force on 19 August 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[129] which expands the scope of legal protection under the Convention,

Deeply concerned by the dangers and security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel at the field level, as they operate in increasingly complex contexts, as well as the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law,

Stressing the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions,

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[125] These include, notably, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 8 December 2005, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 8 June 1977, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996 to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980.

[126] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[127] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[128] Ibid., vol. 2051, No. 35457.

[129] Resolution 60/42, annex.

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, often at great personal risk, especially locally recruited staff,

Noting that about one per cent of United Nations system personnel have been affected by significant security incidents, and noting the substantial reduction in the number of United Nations personnel killed or injured by violence in 2010, while noting with concern the increase in the number of United Nations personnel killed or injured by violence in the first half of 2011,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths of and violent acts against international and national humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and strongly deploring the casualties among such personnel in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations,

Expressing deep concern at the deep and long-lasting impacts of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault and all forms of violence committed in particular against women and children, and intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of property,

Expressing deep concern that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel is a factor that increasingly restricts the provision of assistance and protection to populations in need,

Affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity, and that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[130] and noting the role that the Court can play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations personnel and associated humanitarian personnel, including locally recruited staff, which constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, and mindful of the need to promote and enhance security consciousness within the organizational culture of the United Nations and a culture of accountability at all levels, as well as to continue to promote awareness of and sensitivity to national and local cultures and laws,

Gravely concerned at the high number of accidents and resulting casualties among United Nations and associated personnel, and conscious of the importance of road safety in ensuring the continuity of United Nations humanitarian operations and preventing casualties among civilians and United Nations and associated personnel, and in this regard regretting the loss of civilian life as a result of such incidents,

Noting the importance of reinforcing close collaboration between the United Nations and the host country on contingency planning, information exchange and risk assessment in the context of good mutual cooperation on issues relating to the security of United Nations and associated personnel,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel;[131]

2. *Urges* all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Strongly urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow those personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

5. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments;

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[130] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

[131] A/66/345.

6. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[130]

7. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[129] and urges States parties to put in place appropriate national legislation, as necessary, to enable its effective implementation;

8. *Calls upon* all States, all parties involved in armed conflict and all humanitarian actors to respect the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

9. *Expresses deep concern* over the continuing threats and deliberate targeting of and the disturbing trend of politically or criminally motivated attacks against the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of female United Nations and associated personnel in United Nations humanitarian operations, expresses concern that in some cases these personnel are relatively more exposed to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, and strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to take appropriate action for their safety and security;

11. *Strongly condemns* all threats and acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, reaffirms the need to hold accountable those responsible for such acts, strongly urges all States to take stronger action to ensure that any such acts committed on their territory are investigated fully and to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice in accordance with national laws and obligations under international law, and urges States to end impunity for such acts;

12. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including as provided by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[132] in order to respect and protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel, in territories subject to their jurisdiction;

13. *Also calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel, so as to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained, and urges them to take the necessary measures to ensure the speedy release of those who have been arrested or detained in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

14. *Calls upon* all other parties involved in armed conflict to refrain from abducting, taking hostage or kidnapping humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel or detaining them in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm or requirement of concession, any abductee or detainee;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to promote full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, and also requests the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[133] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[134] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[128]

16. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission, host country and other related agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

17. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to respect and, where required, observe the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

18. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are aware of and sensitive to national and local customs and traditions in their countries of assignment and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives to local populations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of

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[132] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[133] Resolution 22 A (I).

[134] Resolution 179 (II).

a United Nations operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with the minimum operating security standards and relevant codes of conduct and are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant national laws and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in coordination with Member States, to take the necessary measures to ensure that all United Nations premises and assets, including staff residences, are compliant with the United Nations minimum operating security standards and other relevant United Nations security standards;

21. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel receive adequate safety and security training, stresses the need to continue to improve training so as to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge of relevant law, including international humanitarian law, prior to their deployment to the field, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

22. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide counselling and support services to United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents, and emphasizes the importance of making available stress management, mental health and related services for United Nations personnel throughout the system, and encourages all humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through improved training and initiatives to promote road safety so as to reduce incidents caused by road hazards, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the collection and analysis of data and to report on road incidents, including civilian casualties resulting from road accidents;

24. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations and supports the focus on enabling the United Nations system to deliver its mandates, programmes and activities by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, and encourages the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk-management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and the promotion of acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue developing enabling procedures that facilitate the deployment of suitably qualified United Nations security personnel and that strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deploy its personnel;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General, inter alia through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to continue the increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations, including between their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness, and calls upon all relevant United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations to support those efforts;

27. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to make every effort to support in their public statements a favourable environment for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

28. *Emphasizes* the need to pay particular attention to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel, who are particularly vulnerable to attacks and who account for the majority of casualties, including in cases of kidnapping, harassment, banditry and intimidation, requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the relevant United Nations safety and security policy, operational and administrative arrangements related to locally recruited personnel, and calls upon the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to ensure that their personnel are adequately consulted on, informed about and trained in the relevant security measures, plans and initiatives of their respective organizations, which should be in line with applicable national laws and international law;

29. *Notes with appreciation* the progress reported in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide,[135] including the revision of the accountability framework, requests the continued implementation of the recommendations, and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General on safety and security, including on refinements and innovations, as appropriate, for the development of the security management system, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

30. *Requests* the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat to further strengthen the analysis of threats and to continue to improve and implement an effective, modern and flexible information management capacity in support of analytical and operational requirements, including the ongoing

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[135] Available from www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/terrorism/PanelOnSafetyReport.pdf.

system-wide analysis of best practices and information on the range and scope of safety and security incidents involving humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including attacks against them, in order to make objective and evidence-based decisions on how to reduce the risks arising in the context of United Nations related operations;

31. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretary-General in enhancing security collaboration with host Governments, including efforts to support United Nations designated officials with regard to collaboration with host Government authorities on staff safety and security;

32. *Stresses* that the effective functioning at the country level of security operations requires a unified capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communication, compliance and threat and risk assessment, and notes the benefits thereof to United Nations and associated personnel, including those achieved by the Department of Safety and Security since its establishment;

33. *Recognizes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far, as well as the need for continued efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation, at both the headquarters and the field levels, between the United Nations and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, taking into account relevant national and local initiatives in this regard, inter alia, those derived from the "Saving Lives Together" framework, encourages collaborative initiatives to address security training needs, invites Member States to consider increasing support to those initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken in this regard;

34. *Underlines* the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, through regular and extrabudgetary resources, including through the consolidated appeals process, and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System, inter alia, with a view to reinforcing the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to meet its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes;

35. *Also underlines* the need for better coordination between the United Nations and host Governments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, on the use and deployment of essential equipment required to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and associated personnel working in the delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations organizations;

36. *Recalls* the essential role of telecommunications resources in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, calls upon States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998,[136] which entered into force on 8 January 2005, and urges them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and international obligations applicable to them, the use of communications equipment in such operations, inter alia, by limiting and, whenever possible, expeditiously lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and associated personnel;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/118

Adopted at the 86th plenary meeting, on 15 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.27 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia

66/118. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/134 of 15 December 2010, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,

Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[137] and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

Recalling further all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[138] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[138] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[139] and the

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[136] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

[137] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[138] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[139] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[140]

Gravely concerned at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

Welcoming, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Expressing grave concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Underlining the importance of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009, in addressing the immediate humanitarian situation in Gaza and in mobilizing donors to provide financial and political support for the Palestinian Authority in order to alleviate the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by the Palestinian people,

Recalling the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, and the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010,

Welcoming the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in New York on 21 September 2010 and on 18 September 2011,

Welcoming also the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming further the implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan 2008–2010 and the presentation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary of the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in 2011,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

Welcoming recent steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

Acknowledging the recent measures announced by Israel regarding access to the Gaza Strip, while calling for full implementation and complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

Welcoming the action of the Special Representative of the Quartet, Tony Blair, charged with developing, with the Government of the Palestinian Authority, a multi-year agenda to strengthen institutions, promote economic development and mobilize international funds,

Stressing the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009,

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[140] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Stressing also the importance of the regular opening of the crossings for the movement of persons and goods, for both humanitarian and commercial flows,

Noting the active participation of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

Welcoming the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, of the performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[141] and stressing the need for its implementation and compliance with its provisions,

Commending the efforts within the Quartet made by the United States of America, the European Union, the United Nations and the Russian Federation in pursuing vigorously a two-State solution, noting the commitment of the Quartet to remain actively involved and the need for strong international support to promote the peace process, and calling for the resumption and acceleration of negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides towards a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions and the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States — Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State — living side by side in peace and security,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[142]

Expressing grave concern about continuing violence against civilians,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[142]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians in September 2010 and September 2011, and the outcome of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, at which donors pledged approximately 4.5 billion United States dollars to support the needs of the Palestinian people;

7. *Recalls* the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, and the Palestine Investment Conferences;

8. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza;

9. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden-sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

10. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

13. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socio-Economic Aid and

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[141] S/2003/529, annex.

[142] A/66/80-E/2011/111.

the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

14. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

15. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

16. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

17. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

18. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

19. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

20. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[143] including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

RESOLUTION 66/119

Adopted at the 86th plenary meeting, on 15 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.28 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

66/119. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Noting the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[144] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[145]

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deeply concerned about global challenges such as the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis and the negative impact of the excessively volatile food prices on food security and about their effect on the increasing vulnerability of populations and impact on the need for and provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing, in this regard, the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

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[143] A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.

[144] A/66/81-E/2011/117.

[145] A/66/357.

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities,

Expressing its deep concern about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[146] inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including investment in disaster preparedness, and by working towards building back better in all phases from relief to development,

Recognizing the challenges posed by the magnitude and complexity of recent humanitarian emergencies, in particular to the capacity and coordination of the humanitarian response system,

Recognizing also that building national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 65/264 of 28 January 2011 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters,

Emphasizing also the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

Condemning the increasing number of deliberate threats and violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, and noting the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by humanitarian emergencies, including internally displaced persons, bearing in mind their particular needs, and welcoming in this regard the adoption and ongoing process of ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[147] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa,

Recognizing also the importance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[148] which include a vital legal framework for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts that the United Nations continues to make to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for an effective and needs-based response to emergencies,

Recognizing that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should continue to work in close coordination with national Governments,

Welcoming the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[149] and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[150]

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations system, and welcoming the twentieth anniversary of its resolution 46/182,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the fourteenth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011;[151]

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue her efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within

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[146] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[147] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[148] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[149] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[150] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[151] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/66/3/Rev.1), chap. VI.

the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to improve dialogue with Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global and field level, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms, and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

5. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue strengthening the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

7. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[146] and takes note with appreciation of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[152] the outcome of the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, and the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction;[153]

9. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to increase resources for disaster risk reduction measures, including by providing effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding, where possible, for prevention, mitigation and preparedness for effective response and contingency planning in order to, inter alia, further strengthen national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and furthermore encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

10. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

11. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services in humanitarian emergencies, and takes note with appreciation of initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives at the regional and national levels related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance,[154] adopted at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate;

14. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing

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[152] Available from www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/18197.

[153] Available from www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/19846.

[154] Available from www.ifrc.org.

timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing the coordination capacities of affected States;

15. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations, development partners, the private sector, donor countries and the affected State to enhance cooperation and coordination and to continue to utilize and develop appropriate tools with a view to planning and delivering humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as of sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established humanitarian instruments;

17. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, and calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to continue support in this regard;

18. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

19. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the consolidated appeals process, inter alia, by engaging in the preparation of common needs assessments and common humanitarian action plans, including through a better analysis of gender-related allocations, in order to further the development of the process as an instrument for United Nations strategic planning and prioritization, and by involving other relevant humanitarian organizations in the process, while reiterating that consolidated appeals should be prepared in consultation with affected States;

20. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific needs of the affected population, recognizing that giving appropriate consideration to, inter alia, gender, age and disability is part of a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming in the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

21. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

23. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship,[155] and in this respect encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

24. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the findings of the five-year evaluation of the Central Emergency Response Fund carried out in 2011,[156] in this regard decides to reduce the size of the loan element of the Fund to 30 million United States dollars, and requests that the balance of any funds, including interest earned, above 30 million dollars be placed in the grant element of the Fund and used for that purpose;

26. *Decides* to authorize, in exceptional circumstances and on a time-bound basis, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and relevant operational agencies under the leadership of the Coordinator to utilize the loan element of the Central Emergency Response Fund to enhance, within their respective mandates, rapid response coordination where insufficient capacity exists at the field level;

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[155] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

[156] Available from http://ochaonline.un.org/cerf/WhatistheCERF/EvaluationsandReviews/tabid/5340/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

27. *Calls upon* all Member States and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

28. *Reiterates* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and calls upon all Member States to consider increasing voluntary contributions;

29. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

30. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

31. *Urges* all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to reducing such violence and ensuring support services to victims of such violence;

32. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[157] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States;

33. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

34. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to deliver on its mandates, programmes and activities by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2012, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

RESOLUTION 66/120

Adopted at the 86th plenary meeting, on 15 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.29 and Add.1, sponsored by: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

66/120. Strengthening humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and rehabilitation in response to the severe drought in the Horn of Africa region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions,

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[157] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Emphasizing that the affected State has primary responsibility for the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and for facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Recalling the Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action produced by the United Nations system High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis[158] which, among other things, emphasized the twin-track approach of addressing both the immediate humanitarian food crisis and the need for building long-term resilience to contribute to food and nutrition security,

Deeply concerned about the critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa region, where the United Nations has declared a state of famine in parts of Somalia, while other parts of Somalia and parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti are suffering severe food insecurity and, altogether, over 13 million people are in need of assistance that saves lives and reduces suffering,

Deeply concerned also about the protracted armed conflict in Somalia, including acts by armed groups to prevent affected populations from receiving or, where necessary, seeking humanitarian assistance, as well as to obstruct or prevent humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions,

Deeply regretting the loss of human lives and suffering, and conscious of the huge loss in crops and livestock sustained and the negative impact on the environment of the drought and famine situation in the Horn of Africa region,

Underlining the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and continued relief, rehabilitation and livelihood assistance, based on assessed needs of members of vulnerable communities, such as destitute pastoralists and farmers, refugees and internally displaced persons,

Highlighting the fact that the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, although exceptionally acute at this time, is a protracted crisis that requires continued commitments by host Governments, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, civil society groups and donors to address humanitarian and developmental challenges,

Welcoming the efforts of the Governments and people of the Horn of Africa region to protect and provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of drought and famine, and welcoming also regional initiatives to address the present humanitarian crisis, build resilience and prevent drought disasters, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and East African Community joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, the African Union pledging conference for the Horn of Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 25 August 2011, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation pledging meeting on Somalia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17 August 2011, and their outcomes,

Welcoming also the holding and outcome of the ministerial mini-summit on the humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa crisis, held in New York on 24 September 2011,

Welcoming further the efforts and assistance of the international community, including donors, the United Nations system, regional organizations, international agencies, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, in providing relief and in supplementing the efforts of the Governments and people of the Horn of Africa region to combat famine and other effects of drought and food insecurity,

Recognizing that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should continue to work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Expresses its solidarity, sympathy and support* for the people and Governments of the Horn of Africa region affected by the drought and famine conditions;

2. *Commends* steps taken by the Governments of those affected countries to accommodate refugees, and calls upon the United Nations to continue to work closely with the Governments concerned and other partners in providing necessary assistance to refugees and support to host communities, as appropriate;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations, international agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, that are providing emergency relief to the affected populations;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other humanitarian organizations, for their response, and underlines the urgent need to continue to scale up assistance aimed at alleviating the consequences of the drought in the most affected areas in the Horn of Africa region and to build resilience in the longer term;

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[158] Available from www.un-foodsecurity.org.

5. *Urges* the international community, including relevant international and regional organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to continue providing humanitarian assistance and to make contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, in response to relevant appeals;

6. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance and promote partnerships among humanitarian and development actors, and urges relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

7. *Encourages* States and other actors providing humanitarian assistance to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs so as to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance to the Horn of Africa;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and development agencies to assist the countries of the Horn of Africa region whenever possible through continued effective humanitarian, technical and financial assistance that contributes to building resilience and overcoming the humanitarian situation, in particular food insecurity and chronic water deficiency in the short, medium and long term, in conformity with the priorities identified at the national level;

9. *Calls upon* all States to maintain the momentum and political commitment shown at the joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis to addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability in drought-prone areas and strengthening the resilience of members of drought-affected communities, including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, through the prioritization and integration of risk-reduction activities, including water management, agricultural development and social protection, into development policies, planning and national resource allocations, and in this regard calls upon the international community to continue to support those efforts;

10. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to continue to maintain appropriate support and assistance to national and regional efforts towards strengthening disaster risk reduction, including early warning, disaster preparedness and health and nutrition surveillance capacities of the countries affected;

11. *Strongly condemns* the expulsion of humanitarian organizations, the ban on the activities of humanitarian personnel, and the targeting, hindering or prevention of the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia by armed groups, and deplores any attacks on humanitarian personnel;

12. *Calls upon* all States and parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to save lives and efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

RESOLUTION 66/226

Adopted at the 92nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.32 and Add.1, sponsored by: Algeria, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam

66/226. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[159] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 65/138 of 16 December 2010, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,[160]

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[159] Resolution 217 A (III).

[160] Resolutions 36/55, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 56/6, on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, 57/337, on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128, on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23, on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 61/17, on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, 62/155, on human rights and cultural diversity, 63/113, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, 63/181, on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, 64/81, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and 65/5, on World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Recalling also its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is expected to play as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Acknowledging the tenth anniversary of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity,[161] and welcoming the commemoration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010 and the proclamation by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013–2022),[162]

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect in diverse communities and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to changing peoples' perceptions of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels which aims to challenge preconceived ideas and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue;[163]

3. *Notes* the continuing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes in particular the adoption of its new programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

4. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[159] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries

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[161] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[162] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-sixth Session, Paris, 25 October–10 November 2011*, vol. 1 and corrigenda, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 40.

[163] A/66/280.

with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and in this regard acknowledges with appreciation the establishment by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila from 16 to 18 March 2010;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

10. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different faiths to discuss common issues and objectives;

11. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

12. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

13. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/227

Adopted at the 92nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.33 and Add.1, sponsored by: Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Australia, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine

66/227. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming further the Hyogo Declaration,[164] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[165] and the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[166] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Taking note with appreciation of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[167] the outcome of the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, and the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction,[168]

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[164] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[165] Ibid., resolution 2.

[166] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, annex II.

[167] Available from www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/18197.

[168] Available from www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/19846.

Emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing also that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing further the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction, including through the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the ongoing adverse impact of the global financial and economic crisis and the negative impact of excessively volatile food prices on food security, and other key factors that exacerbate the risk of natural disasters,

Also expressing its deep concern that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

Acknowledging the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies,

Noting that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect internally displaced persons, and the need to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from internal displacement throughout the world owing to natural disasters, and encouraging all relevant actors to consider making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[169] when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Recognizing the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission, encouraging Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan for 2012–2013, and reiterating the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Taking note of the progress in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services to develop and provide science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to its implementation,

Welcoming the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

Emphasizing the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning, through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

Recognizing that efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be adversely affected by natural disasters, and noting the positive contribution that those efforts can make in strengthening the resilience of populations to such disasters,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short- and medium-term recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

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[169] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Emphasizing, in this context, the important role of development organizations in supporting national efforts to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[170]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Calls upon* States to fully implement the Hyogo Declaration[164] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[165] in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, emphasizes the promotion and strengthening of disaster preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages them to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including disaster preparedness;

5. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

6. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, both of which amplify natural disaster risk, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant regional, subregional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the initiatives at the regional and national levels related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, as reported to the Thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate;

8. *Also welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant organizations, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and civil society, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

9. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

10. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

11. *Also urges* Member States to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat their national platforms for disaster reduction in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, and also encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

14. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation

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[170] A/66/339.

efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

15. *Also stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

16. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

17. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

18. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system and the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, and the support provided to the coordination of national and international response in the field, and encourages the continued incorporation of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters into those mechanisms;

19. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters both in rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

20. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunication technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunication capacities and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations[171] to consider doing so;

21. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by UN-SPIDER, as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

22. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts;

23. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

24. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the possible differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments;

25. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

26. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender

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[171] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue ensuring that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities;

27. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

28. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

29. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, and early recovery;

30. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

31. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established humanitarian instruments;

32. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators, in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and also encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

33. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for recovery, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

34. *Welcomes* the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund and its contribution to the promotion and enhancement of early humanitarian response, calls upon all Member States and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider increasing voluntary contributions to the Fund, including, when possible, through multi-year and early commitments, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

35. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider voluntary contributions to other humanitarian funding mechanisms;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

RESOLUTION 66/228

Adopted at the 92nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2011, without a vote, on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.31 and Add.1, sponsored by: Australia, Canada, Croatia, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovenia, United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), United States of America

66/228. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[172]

Recalling the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[173]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[174] particularly its recognition that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

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[172] Resolution 217 A (III).

[173] See S/1999/1257.

[174] See resolution 60/1.

Recalling further its resolution 59/137 of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to work with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups that continue to suffer from the [illegible] the 1994 genocide,

Recalling its resolution 60/225 of 23 December 2005, in which it urged Member States to develop educational programmes on the lessons of the genocide in Rwanda, and also requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to prevent future acts of genocide,

Recognizing the numerous difficulties faced by survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, who are poorer and more vulnerable as a result of the genocide, especially the many victims of sexual violence who have contracted HIV and have since either died or become seriously ill with AIDS,

Commending the significant efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda and civil society organizations, as well as international efforts, to provide support for restoring the dignity of the survivors, including the allocation by the Government of Rwanda of 5 per cent of its national budget every year to support genocide survivors,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, in which the Council requested the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to take all possible measures to expeditiously complete all its remaining work no later than 31 December 2014, to prepare its closure and to ensure a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,

Firmly convinced of the necessity of restoring the dignity of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which would help to promote reconciliation and healing in Rwanda,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[175]

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to implement resolution 59/137 expeditiously, inter alia, by providing assistance in the areas of education for orphans, medical care and treatment for victims of sexual violence, including HIV-positive victims, trauma and psychological counselling, and skills training and microcredit programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to urgently implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[175]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities of the programme of outreach entitled "The Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations" aimed at Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide;

4. *Notes* the importance of residual issues, including witness protection and victim support, the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and judicial issues and capacity-building for the Rwandan judiciary, and underlines the need for increased and sustained attention to these issues;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010), in which the Council decided to establish the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and, in this regard, calls upon the Mechanism to conclude the remaining cases within the initial period set out in resolution 1966 (2010), and calls upon Member States to support that effort;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Rwanda, to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to support, in particular, efforts to enhance judicial capacity-building and victim support in Rwanda;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda completion strategy, to continue to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, with concrete recommendations for appropriate solutions to the remaining needs of survivors of the Rwandan genocide of 1994;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence".

RESOLUTION 66/231

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, by a recorded vote of 134 to 1, with 6 abstentions,* on the basis of draft resolution A/66/L.21 and Add.1, sponsored by: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United States of America

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* *In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria,

[175] A/66/331.

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against: Turkey

Abstaining: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

66/231. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolutions 65/37 A of 7 December 2010 and 65/37 B of 4 April 2011, and other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"),[176]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[177] the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction ("the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group")[178] and the reports on the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea ("the Informal Consultative Process") at its twelfth meeting,[179] on the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,[180] and on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects ("the Regular Process"),[181]

Noting with satisfaction the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica, and recognizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[182]

Recognizing the important contribution of sustainable development and management of the resources and uses of the oceans and seas to the achievement of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[183]

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach, and reaffirming the need to improve cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the Convention, to support and supplement the efforts of each State in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention, and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reiterating the essential need for cooperation, including through capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, through cooperation programmes with Governments, to the development of national capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of the oceans and their resources,

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[176] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[177] A/66/70 and Add.1 and 2.

[178] A/66/119, annex, sect. I.

[179] See A/66/186.

[180] SPLOS/231.

[181] See A/66/189.

[182] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[183] See resolution 55/2.

Recalling that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

Reiterating its deep concern at the serious adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems and their physical and biogenic structure, including coral reefs, cold water habitats, hydrothermal vents and seamounts, of certain human activities,

Emphasizing the need for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships,

Expressing deep concern at the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the physical alteration and destruction of marine habitats that may result from land-based and coastal development activities, in particular those land reclamation activities that are carried out in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the marine environment,

Reiterating its serious concern at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing this issue,

Expressing concern that climate change continues to increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching throughout tropical seas and weakens the ability of reefs to withstand ocean acidification, which could have serious and irreversible negative effects on marine organisms, particularly corals, as well as to withstand other pressures, including overfishing and pollution,

Reiterating its deep concern at the vulnerability of the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions, including the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic ice cap, particularly affected by the projected adverse effects of climate change,

Recognizing the need for a more integrated and ecosystem-based approach to, further study of and the promotion of measures for enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,

Recognizing also that the realization of the benefits of the Convention could be enhanced by international cooperation, technical assistance and advanced scientific knowledge, as well as by funding and capacity-building,

Recognizing further that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and encouraging further efforts towards electronic charting, which not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainable fisheries activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection, and noting the entry into force of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,[184] on requirements for ships on international voyages to carry an electronic chart display information system,

Recognizing that ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law are critical for saving lives by detecting storm surges and tsunamis and for improving understanding of weather, climate and ecosystems, and reiterating its serious concern at intentional and unintentional damage to such buoys,

Emphasizing that underwater archaeological, cultural and historical heritage, including shipwrecks and watercraft, holds essential information on the history of humankind and that such heritage is a resource that needs to be protected and preserved,

Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

Recognizing that fibre-optic submarine cables transmit most of the world's data and communications and, hence, are vitally important to the global economy and the national security of all States, conscious that these cables are susceptible to intentional and accidental damage from shipping and other activities, and that the maintenance, including the repair, of these cables is important, noting that these matters have been brought to the attention of States at various workshops and seminars, and conscious of the need for States to adopt national laws and regulations to protect submarine cables and render their wilful damage or damage by culpable negligence punishable offences,

Noting the importance of the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and that it is in the broader interest of the international community that coastal States with a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles submit information on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission"), and welcoming the submissions to the Commission by a considerable number of States Parties on the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, that the Commission has continued to fulfil its role, including of making recommendations to coastal States, and that the summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available,[185]

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[184] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1184, No. 18961.

Noting also that many coastal States Parties have submitted preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, as provided for in the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission and the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (*a*),[186]

Noting further that some coastal States may continue to face particular challenges in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission,

Noting that financial and technical assistance may be sought by developing countries for activities in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission, including through the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention, as well as other accessible international assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the trust funds established by resolution 55/7 in facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission and in fulfilling the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, while noting with appreciation the recent contributions made to them,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and for the international community,

Recognizing the significant workload of the Commission in view of the large number of submissions already received and a number of submissions yet to be received, which places additional demands and challenges on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations through the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat ("the Division"), and acknowledging the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission,[187]

Noting with concern the projected timetable of the work of the Commission on the submissions already received by it and those yet to be received[188] and, in this regard, the consequences of the duration of the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of its subcommissions,

Recognizing significant inequities and difficulties for States arising out of the projected timetable, including with respect to retaining expertise, when there is a considerable delay between preparation of submissions and their consideration by the Commission,

Recognizing also the need to take action to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions under the Convention expeditiously, efficiently and effectively, and maintain its high level of quality and expertise,

Recalling its decision, in resolutions 57/141 of 12 December 2002 and 58/240 of 23 December 2003, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[189] and noting the need for cooperation among all States to this end,

Recalling also its decisions, in paragraphs 202, 203 and 209 of resolution 65/37 A, regarding the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations and accountable to the General Assembly,

Recalling further that the Division has been designated to provide secretariat support to the Regular Process, including its established institutions,

Recognizing the importance and the contribution of the work of the Informal Consultative Process established by resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 to facilitate the annual review of developments in ocean affairs by the General Assembly,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997, 54/33 and 65/37 A and 65/37 B, and in this context the substantial increase in activities of the Division, in particular in view of the growing number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings, its increasing capacity-building activities, the need for enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and the role of the Division in inter-agency coordination and cooperation,

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[185] Available from www.un.org/depts/los/index.htm.

[186] SPLOS/183.

[187] SPLOS/229.

[188] Available from www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/clcs_home.htm.

[189] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority") in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Part XI Agreement"),[190]

Reaffirming also the importance of the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") in accordance with the Convention,

I

Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

1. *Reaffirms* its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolutions 65/37 A and 65/37 B, and other relevant resolutions concerning the Convention;[176]

2. *Also reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;[190]

4. *Calls upon* States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Fish Stocks Agreement");[191]

5. *Calls upon* States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention and, where applicable, relevant agreements and instruments, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention do not purport to exclude or to modify the legal effect of the provisions of the Convention in their application to the State concerned and to withdraw any such declarations or statements;

6. *Calls upon* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to deposit with the Secretary-General charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention, preferably using generally accepted and the most recent geodetic datums;

7. *Urges* all States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in taking measures to protect and preserve objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea, in conformity with the Convention, and calls upon States to work together on such diverse challenges and opportunities as the appropriate relationship between salvage law and scientific management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage, increasing technological abilities to discover and reach underwater sites, looting and growing underwater tourism;

8. *Notes* the recent deposit of instruments of ratification and acceptance of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,[192] calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Convention, and notes in particular the rules annexed to that Convention, which address the relationship between salvage law and scientific principles of management, conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage among Parties, their nationals and vessels flying their flag;

II

Capacity-building

9. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential to ensure that States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able to fully implement the Convention, benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas and participate fully in global and regional forums on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

10. *Emphasizes also* the need for international cooperation for capacity-building, including cross-sectoral cooperation, at national, regional and global levels, to address, in particular, gaps in capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science;

11. *Calls for* capacity-building initiatives to take into account the needs of developing countries, and calls upon States, international organizations and donor agencies to make efforts to ensure the sustainability of such initiatives;

12. *Calls upon* donor agencies and international financial institutions to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific and technical skills necessary for the full implementation of the Convention and the objectives of the present resolution, as well as the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the interests and needs of landlocked developing States;

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[190] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

[191] Ibid., vol. 2167, No. 37924.

[192] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, resolution 24.

13. *Encourages* intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts, including electronic charts, as well as the mobilization of resources and building of capacity with support from international financial institutions and the donor community;

14. *Calls upon* States and international financial institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and technical partnerships, to continue to strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research by, inter alia, training personnel to develop and enhance relevant expertise, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels and transferring environmentally sound technologies;

15. *Also calls upon* States and international financial institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and technical partnerships, to strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to promote effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law;

16. *Emphasizes* the need to focus on strengthening South-South cooperation as an additional way to build capacity and as a cooperative mechanism to further enable countries to set their own priorities and needs;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization as a centre of education and training of Government legal advisers, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute;

18. *Also recognizes* the importance of the World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization as a centre for maritime education and research, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of maritime transportation, policy, administration, management, safety, security and environmental protection, as well as its role in the international exchange and transfer of knowledge, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and other bodies to make voluntary financial contributions to the University;

19. *Welcomes* ongoing activities for capacity-building so as to address maritime security and safety needs and the protection of the marine environment of developing States, and encourages States and international financial institutions to provide additional funding for capacity-building programmes, including for transfer of technology, including through the International Maritime Organization and other competent international organizations;

20. *Recognizes* the considerable need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to developing States, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;[193]

21. *Also recognizes* the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of and support the implementation of improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of marine pollution from land-based sources and marine debris;

22. *Further recognizes* the importance of assisting developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in implementing the Convention, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and agencies, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds, as referred to in resolutions 55/7, 57/141 and 64/71 of 4 December 2009, established for this purpose;

23. *Acknowledges* the importance of capacity-building for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, for the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources;

24. *Recognizes* that promoting the voluntary transfer of technology is an essential aspect of building capacity in marine science;

25. *Encourages* States to use the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-second session, in 2003,[194] and recalls the important role of the secretariat of that Commission in the implementation and promotion of the Criteria and Guidelines;

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[193] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[194] See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/INF-1203.

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the Division to compile information on capacity-building initiatives, requests the Secretary-General to continue to regularly update such information provided by States, international organizations and donor agencies and include it in his annual report to the General Assembly, invites States, international organizations and donor agencies to submit such information to the Secretary-General for this purpose, and requests the Division to post the information on capacity-building initiatives from the annual report of the Secretary-General on the website of the Division in an easily accessible manner so as to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with opportunities;

27. *Calls upon* States to continue to assist developing States, and especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, at the bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral levels, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State, and recalls that coastal States can make requests to the Commission for scientific and technical advice in the preparation of data for their submissions, in accordance with article 3 of annex II to the Convention;

28. *Calls upon* the Division to continue to disseminate information on relevant procedures related to the trust fund established for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to continue its dialogue with potential beneficiaries with a view to providing financial support to developing countries for activities to facilitate their submissions in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure[195] and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission;[196]

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations and institutions, to continue to support training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation and presentation of their submissions to the Commission;

30. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Division to capacity-building activities at the national and regional level;

31. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to support the capacity-building activities of the Division, including, in particular, the training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation of their submissions to the Commission and also invites Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and expresses its appreciation to those who have contributed;

32. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea to the capacity-building of developing countries and the promotion of the law of the sea, notes that the twenty-fourth award, in 2011, was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of Member States, further notes that the fellowship fund balance continues to be at a very low level, reiterates therefore its serious concern regarding the continued lack of resources, appeals urgently to Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute generously to the further development of the Fellowship to ensure that it is awarded every year, and takes due note of the inclusion by the Secretary-General of the Fellowship on the list of trust funds for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

33. *Also recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution that the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme which, relying on its network of more than 40 host institutions, has awarded 70 fellowships to individuals from 54 Member States since 2005, and held from 10 to 16 July 2011 its third regional alumni meeting, in Nairobi, has made to human resources development for developing Member States in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines and the promotion of holistic and cross-sectoral approaches, emphasizing the integration of physical and social sciences and promoting interlinkages among alumni and between their organizations;

34. *Further recognizes with appreciation* the funding set aside by the Global Environment Facility for projects relating to oceans and marine biodiversity;

III

Meetings of States Parties

35. *Welcomes* the report of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention[180] and of the special meeting held on 11 August 2011 for the purpose of electing one member of the Commission;[197]

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in New York from 4 to 11 June 2012, and to provide full conference services, including documentation, as required;

IV

Peaceful settlement of disputes

37. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and significant contribution of the Tribunal to the settlement of disputes by

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[195] CLCS/40/Rev.1.

[196] CLCS/11 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[197] SPLOS/237.

peaceful means in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;

38. *Pays tribute* to the important and long-standing role of the International Court of Justice with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes concerning the law of the sea;

39. *Notes* that States parties to an international agreement related to the purposes of the Convention may submit to, inter alia, the Tribunal or the International Court of Justice any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of that agreement submitted in accordance with that agreement, and notes also the possibility, provided for in the Statutes of the Tribunal and the Court, to submit disputes to a chamber;

40. *Encourages* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement, bearing in mind the comprehensive character of the dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Part XV of the Convention;

V

The Area

41. *Encourages* progress on the finalization of the regulations for prospecting and exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area, and reiterates the importance of the ongoing elaboration by the Authority, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, of rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, for, inter alia, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area, and for the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area;

42. *Acknowledges* the activities undertaken by the Authority for the dissemination of the advisory opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area, issued by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal on 1 February 2011, at the request of the Council of the Authority, pursuant to article 191 of the Convention;[198]

43. *Notes* the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment, respectively;

VI

Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

44. *Appeals* to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal in full and on time, and also appeals to States Parties in arrears with their contributions to fulfil their obligations without delay;

45. *Urges* all States Parties to the Convention to attend the sessions of the Authority, and calls upon the Authority to continue to pursue all options, including making concrete recommendations on the issue of dates, in order to improve attendance in Kingston and to ensure global participation;

46. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal[199] and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;[200]

47. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Tribunal's rules and staff regulations in promoting the recruitment of a geographically representative staff in the Professional and higher categories, and welcomes the actions taken by the Tribunal in observance of those rules and regulations;

48. *Takes note with appreciation* of the advisory opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area, issued by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal on 1 February 2011, at the request of the Council of the Authority, pursuant to article 191 of the Convention;

VII

The continental shelf and the work of the Commission

49. *Recalls* that, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall be submitted by the coastal State to the Commission set up under annex II to the Convention on the basis of equitable geographical representation, that the Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf, and that the limits of the shelf established by a coastal State on the basis of these recommendations shall be final and binding;

50. *Also recalls* that, in accordance with article 77, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the rights of the coastal State

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[198] See ISBA/17/A/9.

[199] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, No. 37925.

[200] Ibid., vol. 2214, No. 39357.

over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation;

51. *Notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted information to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in conformity with article 76 of the Convention and article 4 of annex II to the Convention, taking into account the decision of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (*a*);

52. *Also notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted to the Secretary-General, pursuant to the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,[201] preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and a description of the status of preparation and intended date of submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission;

53. *Further notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission[202] and that it is giving current consideration to a number of submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles;

54. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Commission, taking into account the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,[203] has compiled lists of websites of organizations, data/information portals and data holders where general information and publicly available scientific and technical data can be accessed that may be relevant to the preparation of submissions, and has made this information available on its website;[204]

55. *Takes note* of the recommendations made by the Commission on the submissions of a number of coastal States, and welcomes the fact that summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available;[185]

56. *Notes* that the consideration by the Commission of submissions by coastal States in accordance with article 76 of and annex II to the Convention is without prejudice to the application of other parts of the Convention by States Parties;

57. *Notes with concern* that the heavy workload of the Commission, owing to the considerable number of submissions, places additional demands on and challenges before its members and the secretariat as provided by the Division, and in that regard emphasizes the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions expeditiously, efficiently and effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise;

58. *Takes note* of the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission,[187] in which, among other measures, the Commission is requested to consider, in coordination with the Secretariat, as from 16 June 2012, within the existing resources made available to the Secretariat, that the Commission, and its subcommissions meeting simultaneously as far as possible, meet in New York for up to twenty-six weeks but not less than an intended minimum of twenty-one weeks a year for a period of five years, distributed in such a way that the Commission determines to be the most effective, and that no two sessions be sequential;

59. *Welcomes* the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to review the measures proposed in paragraph 1 of the decision[187] at the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, with a view to assessing progress in reducing the projected timeline in the workload of the Commission;

60. *Reiterates* the duty of States under the Convention, whose experts are serving on the Commission, to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties, and urges these States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures, within overall existing resource levels, to further strengthen the capacity of the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and its subcommissions in their consideration of submissions, as required by paragraph 9 of annex III to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in particular its human resources, taking into account the need for simultaneous work on several submissions;

62. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary secretariat services to the Commission in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention;

63. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate and timely measures to ensure secretariat services for the Commission and its subcommissions for the extended duration of time requested in the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;[187]

64. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, consequently, to allocate appropriate and sufficient resources to the Division to provide adequate services and assistance to the Commission in view of the increase in the number of its working weeks, including through the establishment of additional posts to

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[201] SPLOS/183, para. 1 (*a*).

[202] See CLCS/70 and Corr.1 and CLCS/72.

[203] SPLOS/183, para. 3.

[204] www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/clcs_home.htm.

reinforce the geographic information system, legal and administrative support to the Commission by the Division;

65. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to the voluntary trust fund also established by that resolution for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and encourages States to make additional contributions to these funds;

66. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Commission, in New York from 19 March to 27 April 2012 and from 30 July to 10 August 2012, respectively, with full conference services, including documentation for the plenary parts of these sessions,[205] as well as any resumed twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions as may be required by the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet these requirements within overall existing resources, on the understanding that the following periods of the twenty-ninth session will be used for the technical examinations of submissions at the Geographic Information System laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division: 19 March to 5 April 2012 and 23 to 27 April 2012;

67. *Expresses its firm conviction* about the importance of the work of the Commission, carried out in accordance with the Convention including with respect to the participation of coastal States in relevant proceedings concerning their submissions, and recognizes the continued need for active interaction between coastal States and the Commission;

68. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have exchanged views in order to increase understanding of issues, including expenditures involved, arising from the application of article 76 of the Convention, thus facilitating the preparation of submissions by States, in particular developing States, to the Commission, and encourages States to continue exchanging views;

69. *Notes* the considerable number of submissions yet to be considered by the Commission, and in this regard stresses the urgent need for States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate and prompt steps that will allow the Commission to consider the increased number of submissions in a timely, efficient and effective manner;

70. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, to continue supporting workshops or symposiums on scientific and technical aspects of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, taking into account the need to strengthen capacity-building for developing countries in preparing their submissions, and takes note of the workshop held by the Government of Angola from 16 to 20 May 2011 in Luanda for this purpose;

VIII

Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

71. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the safety and security of navigation, as well as maritime labour, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention and other relevant international instruments aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements, and emphasizes the need for capacity-building for and assistance to developing States;

72. *Recognizes* that the legal regimes governing maritime safety and maritime security may have common and mutually reinforcing objectives that may be interrelated and could benefit from synergies, and encourages States to take this into account in their implementation;

73. *Emphasizes* the need for further efforts to promote a culture of safety and security in the shipping industry and to address the shortage of adequately trained personnel, and urges the establishment of more centres to provide the required education and training;

74. *Emphasizes also* that safety and security measures should be implemented with minimal negative effects on seafarers and fishers, especially in relation to their working conditions;

75. *Notes* the 2010 amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978,[206] and to the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers Code, otherwise known as the Manila amendments,[207] and invites States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to that Convention, as well as the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995;

76. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185),[208] of the International Labour Organization and to effectively implement those Conventions, and emphasizes the need to provide to

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[205] From 9 to 20 April 2012 and from 30 July to 10 August 2012.

[206] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1361, No. 23001.

[207] See International Maritime Organization, documents STCW/CONF.2/32–34.

[208] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2304, No. 41069.

States, at their request, technical cooperation and assistance in that regard;

77. *Welcomes* ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization relating to the safety of fishers and fishing vessels, underlines the urgent need for continued work in that area, and takes note of the approval by the International Maritime Organization of the Guidelines to Assist Competent Authorities in the Implementation of Part B of the Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, and the Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 Metres in Length and Undecked Fishing Vessels,[209] which were subsequently forwarded for approval to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization;

78. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal[210] and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;

79. *Encourages* States to consider becoming parties to the 2010 Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea;[211]

80. *Recalls* that all actions taken to combat threats to maritime security must be in accordance with international law, including the principles embodied in the Charter and the Convention;

81. *Recognizes* the crucial role of international cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels in combating, in accordance with international law, threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats, the enhanced sharing of information among States relevant to the detection, prevention and suppression of such threats, and the prosecution of offenders with due regard to national legislation, and the need for sustained capacity-building to support such objectives;

82. *Notes* that piracy affects the entire range of vessels engaged in maritime activities;

83. *Emphasizes* the importance of promptly reporting incidents to enable accurate information on the scope of the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships and, in the case of armed robbery against ships, by affected vessels to the coastal State, underlines the importance of effective information-sharing with States potentially affected by incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and takes note of the important role of the International Maritime Organization;

84. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to actively combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity-building through training of seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

85. *Encourages* States to ensure effective implementation of international law applicable to combating piracy, as reflected in the Convention, and calls upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate, in accordance with international law, the apprehension and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed acts of piracy, including the financing or facilitation of such acts, also taking into account other relevant instruments that are consistent with the Convention;

86. *Expresses grave concern* at the threats posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons;

87. *Invites* all States, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies to adopt or recommend, as appropriate, measures to protect the interest and welfare of seafarers and fishers who are victims of pirates, after their release from captivity, including their post-incident care and reintegration into society;

88. *Takes note* of the ongoing cooperation between the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division with respect to the compilation of national legislation on piracy, and notes that copies of national legislation received by the Secretariat have been placed on the website of the Division;[185]

89. *Encourages* continued national, bilateral and trilateral initiatives as well as regional cooperative mechanisms, in accordance with international law, to address piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery at sea in the Asian region, and calls upon other States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;

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[209] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 89/25/Add.1, annex 16.

[210] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

[211] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.17/10.

90. *Reiterates its serious concern* regarding continued incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, expresses alarm in particular at the hijacking of vessels, supports the recent efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 1816 (2008) of 2 June 2008, 1838 (2008) of 7 October 2008, 1846 (2008) of 2 December 2008, 1851 (2008) of 16 December 2008, 1897 (2009) of 30 November 2009, 1918 (2010) of 27 April 2010, 1950 (2010) of 23 November 2010, 1976 (2011) of 11 April 2011 and 2015 (2011) of 24 October 2011, as well as the statement by the President of the Security Council of 25 August 2010,[212] and also notes that the authorization in resolution 1816 (2008), and the provisions in resolutions 1838 (2008), 1846 (2008), 1851 (2008), 1897 (2009) and 1950 (2010) apply only to the situation in Somalia and do not affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including any rights or obligations under the Convention, with respect to any other situation, and underscores, in particular, the fact that they are not to be considered as establishing customary international law;

91. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General of 15 June 2011,[213] prepared pursuant to the request of the Security Council in resolution 1976 (2011);

92. *Notes* the continued efforts within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1851 (2008), including the establishment under the Contact Group of Working Group 5 on the financial aspects of Somali piracy to focus on and coordinate efforts to disrupt the pirate enterprise ashore, and commends contributions of all States in the efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia;

93. *Recognizes* the primary role of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those involved in such acts;

94. *Notes* the approval by the International Maritime Organization of guidelines to assist in the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery against ships,[214] revised interim guidance to shipowners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area,[215] revised interim recommendations for flag States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area[216] and interim recommendations for port and coastal States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area;[217]

95. *Also notes* the issuance by the International Maritime Organization of Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area,[218] developed by the industry, and notes the adoption on 20 May 2011 by the International Maritime Organization of the resolution on the implementation of best management practice guidance;[219]

96. *Recalls* the adoption on 29 January 2009 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct)[220] under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, the establishment of the International Maritime Organization Djibouti Code Trust Fund, a multi-donor trust fund initiated by Japan, and the ongoing activities for the implementation of the Code of Conduct;

97. *Urges* States to ensure the full implementation of resolution A.1026(26), adopted on 2 December 2009 by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, on acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia;

98. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[221] notes the entry into force on 28 July 2010 of the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation[222] and of the 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[223] invites States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those Protocols, and urges States

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[212] S/PRST/2010/16; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2010–31 July 2011*.

[213] S/2011/360.

[214] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC.1/Circ.1404.

[215] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.1.

[216] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.1.

[217] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC.1/Circ.1408.

[218] International Maritime Organization, document MSC.1/Circ.1337, annex 2.

[219] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 89/25/Add.4, annex 29.

[220] See International Maritime Organization, document C 102/14, annex, attachment 1.

[221] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1678, No. 29004.

[222] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/21.

[223] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/22.

parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate;

99. *Calls upon* States to effectively implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,[224] and to work with the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and secure shipping while ensuring freedom of navigation;

100. *Notes* the approval by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization of the user guide to chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and to the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code;[225]

101. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to improve the protection of offshore installations by adopting measures related to the prevention, reporting and investigation of acts of violence against installations, in accordance with international law, and by implementing such measures through national legislation to ensure proper and adequate enforcement;

102. *Emphasizes* the progress in regional cooperation, including the efforts of littoral States, on the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the effective functioning of the Cooperative Mechanism on safety of navigation and environmental protection to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industry and other stakeholders in line with article 43 of the Convention, notes with appreciation the convening of the fourth Cooperation Forum, in Malaysia on 10 and 11 October 2011, the fourth Project Coordination Committee Meeting, in Malaysia on 12 October 2011, and the seventh Aids to Navigation Fund Committee Meeting, in Malaysia on 17 and 18 October 2011, the three events being key pillars of the Cooperative Mechanism, notes with appreciation the important role of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

103. *Recognizes* that some transnational organized criminal activities threaten legitimate uses of the oceans and endanger the lives of people at sea;

104. *Notes* that transnational organized criminal activities are diverse and may be interrelated in some cases and that criminal organizations are adaptive and take advantage of the vulnerabilities of States, in particular coastal and small island developing States in transit areas, and calls upon States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to increase cooperation and coordination at all levels to detect and suppress the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, in accordance with international law;

105. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[226]

106. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[227] the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[228] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[229] and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

107. *Calls upon* States to ensure freedom of navigation, the safety of navigation and the rights of transit passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage and innocent passage in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention;

108. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance, and in particular in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in straits used for international navigation, and calls upon the International Maritime Organization, States bordering straits and user States to continue their cooperation to keep such straits safe, secure and environmentally protected and open to international navigation at all times, consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

109. *Calls upon* user States and States bordering straits used for international navigation to continue to cooperate by agreement on matters relating to navigational safety, including safety aids for navigation, and the prevention, reduction and

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[224] International Maritime Organization, documents SOLAS/CONF.5/32 and 34, as well as resolution MSC.202(81) introducing the long-range identification and tracking of ships system.

[225] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 89/WP.6/Add.1.

[226] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[227] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[228] Ibid., vol. 2326, No. 39574.

[229] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

control of pollution from ships, and welcomes developments in this regard;

110. *Calls upon* States that have accepted the amendments to regulation XI-1/6 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,[230] to implement the Code of International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident,[231] which took effect on 1 January 2010;

111. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming members of the International Hydrographic Organization, and urges all States to work with that Organization to increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance and to promote safe navigation, particularly through the production and use of accurate electronic navigational charts, especially in areas used for international navigation, in ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;

112. *Encourages* States to continue their efforts in the implementation of all areas of the Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2004;[232]

113. *Notes* that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; that States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials; that States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns; and that these concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport;

114. *Acknowledges*, in the context of paragraph 113 above, the potential environmental and economic impacts of maritime incidents and accidents on coastal States, in particular those related to the transport of radioactive materials, and emphasizes the importance of effective liability regimes in that regard;

115. *Encourages* States to draw up plans and to establish procedures to implement the Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance adopted by the International Maritime Organization on 5 December 2003;[233]

116. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007;[234]

117. *Requests* States to take appropriate measures with regard to ships flying their flag or of their registry to address hazards that may be caused by wrecks and drifting or sunken cargo to navigation or the marine environment;

118. *Calls upon* States to ensure that masters on ships flying their flag take the steps required by relevant instruments[235] to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea, and urges States to cooperate and to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the amendments to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue[236] and to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea[237] relating to the delivery of persons rescued at sea to a place of safety, as well as of the associated Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea;[238]

119. *Recognizes* that all States must fulfil their search and rescue responsibilities and the ongoing need for the International Maritime Organization and other relevant organizations to assist, in particular, developing States both to increase their search and rescue capabilities, including through the establishment of additional rescue coordination centres and regional sub-centres, and to take effective action to address, to the extent feasible, the issue of unseaworthy ships and small craft within their national jurisdiction;

120. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in relation to disembarkation of persons rescued at sea, and notes in this regard the need to implement all relevant international instruments;

121. *Notes* the adoption by the International Maritime Organization on 2 December 2010 of revised guidelines on the

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[230] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 84/24/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.257(84).

[231] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 84/24/Add.1, annex 1, resolution MSC.255(84).

[232] Available from www-ns.iaea.org/downloads/rw/action-plans/transport-action-plan.pdf.

[233] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.949(23).

[234] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.16/19.

[235] The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, and the International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

[236] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 5, resolution MSC.155(78).

[237] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.153(78).

[238] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.2, annex 34, resolution MSC.167(78).

prevention of access by stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases;[239]

122. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate in developing comprehensive approaches to international migration and development, including through dialogue on all their aspects;

123. *Also calls upon* States to take measures to protect fibre-optic submarine cables and to fully address issues relating to these cables, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

124. *Encourages* greater dialogue and cooperation among States and the relevant regional and global organizations through workshops and seminars on the protection and maintenance of fibre-optic submarine cables to promote the security of such critical communications infrastructure;

125. *Encourages* the adoption by States of laws and regulations addressing the breaking or injury of submarine cables or pipelines beneath the high seas done wilfully or through culpable negligence by a ship flying its flag or by a person subject to its jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

126. *Affirms* the importance of maintenance, including the repair, of submarine cables, undertaken in conformity with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

127. *Reaffirms* that flag, port and coastal States all bear responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of international instruments relating to maritime security and safety, in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention, and that flag States have primary responsibility that requires further strengthening, including through increased transparency of ownership of vessels;

128. *Urges* flag States without an effective maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law, in particular the Convention, and, until such action is taken, to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry, and calls upon flag and port States to take all measures consistent with international law necessary to prevent the operation of substandard vessels;

129. *Recognizes* that international shipping rules and standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization in respect of maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution, complemented by best practices of the shipping industry, have led to a significant reduction in maritime accidents and pollution incidents, encourages all States to participate in the Voluntary International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme,[240] and notes the decision of the International Maritime Organization on a phased-in introduction of the Audit Scheme as an institutionalized process;[241]

130. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory code for ships operating in polar waters ("Polar Code"), and encourages States and competent international organizations and bodies to support continued efforts to finalize the Polar Code within the agreed framework, with an entry into force as soon as possible;

131. *Recognizes* that maritime safety can also be improved through effective port State control, the strengthening of regional arrangements and increased coordination and cooperation among them, and increased information-sharing, including among safety and security sectors;

132. *Encourages* flag States to take appropriate measures sufficient to achieve or maintain recognition by intergovernmental arrangements that recognize satisfactory flag State performance, including, as appropriate, satisfactory port State control examination results on a sustained basis, with a view to improving quality shipping and furthering flag State implementation of relevant instruments under the International Maritime Organization as well as relevant goals and objectives of the present resolution;

IX

Marine environment and marine resources

133. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures consistent with the Convention, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

134. *Notes* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its findings on the acidification of oceans, and in this regard encourages States and competent international organizations and other relevant institutions, individually and in cooperation, to urgently pursue further research on ocean acidification, especially programmes of observation and measurement, noting in particular paragraph 4 of decision IX/20 adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological

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[239] See International Maritime Organization, document MSC 88/26/Add.1, annex 6, resolution MSC.312(88).

[240] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.946(23).

[241] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.1018(26).

Diversity, held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008,[242] and the continued work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to increase national, regional and international efforts to address levels of ocean acidity and the negative impact of such acidity on vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs;

135. *Encourages* States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity and develop ways and means of adaptation, taking into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;

136. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens and marine pollution from all sources, including the dumping of wastes and other matter, and other forms of physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for preparedness for, response to and cooperation on pollution incidents and that include provisions on liability and compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with international law, including the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

137. *Encourages* States, directly or through competent international organizations, to consider the further development and application, as appropriate and consistent with international law, including the Convention, of environmental impact assessment processes covering planned activities under their jurisdiction or control that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, and also encourages the communication of the reports of the results of such assessments to the competent international organizations in accordance with the Convention;

138. *Encourages* States that have not done so to become parties to regional seas conventions addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

139. *Encourages* States, in accordance with international law, including the Convention and other relevant instruments, either bilaterally or regionally, to jointly develop and promote contingency plans for responding to pollution incidents, as well as other incidents that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment and biodiversity;

140. *Recognizes* the importance of improving understanding of the impact of climate change on oceans and seas;

141. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to marine debris carried out in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, notes the holding of the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference, organized by the United States of America and the United Nations Environment Programme, in Honolulu, United States of America, from 20 to 25 March 2011, and encourages States to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss;

142. *Urges* States to integrate the issue of marine debris into national strategies dealing with waste management in the coastal zone, ports and maritime industries, including recycling, reuse, reduction and disposal, and to encourage the development of appropriate economic incentives to address this issue, including the development of cost-recovery systems that provide an incentive to use port reception facilities and discourage ships from discharging marine debris at sea, and support for measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from any source, including land-based sources, such as community-based coastal and waterway clean-up and monitoring activities, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to identify potential sources and coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates, and to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris;

143. *Notes* the work of the International Maritime Organization to prevent pollution by garbage from ships, and welcomes the adoption of amendments to annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, on the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships;[243]

144. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 1 August 2011 of amendments regarding special requirements for the use or carriage of oils in the Antarctic area to annex I to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, on the prevention of pollution by oil from ships, which prohibit the carriage in bulk as cargo or carriage and use as fuel of heavy grade oils in the Antarctic area;[244]

145. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol of 1997 (Annex VI-Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, and the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the

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[242] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.

[243] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 62/24, annex 13, resolution MEPC.201(62).

[244] See International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 60/22, annex 10, resolution MEPC.189(60).

Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 ("the London Protocol"), and furthermore to ratify or accede to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004,[245] thereby facilitating its early entry into force;

146. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in accordance with its resolution on International Maritime Organization policies and practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships;[246]

147. *Urges* States to cooperate in correcting the shortfall in port waste reception facilities in accordance with the action plan to address the inadequacy of port waste reception facilities developed by the International Maritime Organization;[247]

148. *Recognizes* that most of the pollution load of the oceans emanates from land-based activities and affects the most productive areas of the marine environment, and calls upon States as a matter of priority to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[248] and to take all appropriate measures to fulfil the commitments of the international community embodied in the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action;[249]

149. *Notes* that the third intergovernmental review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities will be held in Manila on 25 and 26 January 2012;

150. *Expresses its concern* regarding the spreading of hypoxic dead zones in oceans as a result of eutrophication fuelled by riverine run-off of fertilizers, sewage outfall and reactive nitrogen resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and resulting in serious consequences for ecosystem functioning, and calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce eutrophication and, to this effect, to continue to cooperate within the framework of relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Programme of Action;

151. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that urban and coastal development projects and related land-reclamation activities are carried out in a responsible manner that protects the marine habitat and environment and mitigates the negative consequences of such activities;

152. *Notes* the second and third sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, held in Chiba, Japan, from 24 to 28 January 2011 and Nairobi from 31 October to 4 November 2011, respectively, pursuant to the agreement of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;[250]

153. *Welcomes* the continued work of States, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages increased emphasis on the link between fresh water, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[183] and of the time-bound targets in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[189] in particular the target on sanitation, and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[251]

154. *Recalls* the resolution of the thirtieth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 ("the London Convention") and the third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 27 to 31 October 2008, on the regulation of ocean fertilization,[252] in which the Contracting Parties agreed, inter alia, that the scope of the London Convention and Protocol includes ocean fertilization activities and that, given the present state of knowledge, ocean fertilization activities other than for legitimate scientific research should not be allowed, and that scientific research proposals should be assessed on a case-by-case basis using an assessment framework to be developed by the scientific groups under the London Convention and Protocol, and also agreed that, to this end, such other activities should be considered as contrary to the aims of the London Convention and Protocol and should not currently qualify for any exemption from the definition of dumping in article III, paragraph 1 (*b*), of the London Convention and article 1, paragraph 4.2, of the London Protocol;

155. *Also recalls* the resolution of the thirty-second Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 11 to 15 October 2010, on the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization;[253]

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[245] International Maritime Organization, document BWM/CONF/36, annex.

[246] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.963(23).

[247] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 53/9/1, annex 1.

[248] See A/51/116, annex II.

[249] UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/7, annex V.

[250] See UNEP/GC.25/17, annex I, decision 25/5.

[251] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[252] International Maritime Organization, document LC 30/16, annex 6, resolution LC-LP.1 (2008).

[253] International Maritime Organization, document LC 32/15, annex 5, resolution LC-LP.2 (2010).

156. *Further recalls* decision IX/16 C adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[242] in which the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, bearing in mind the ongoing scientific and legal analysis occurring under the auspices of the London Convention and Protocol requested parties and urged other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities were not carried out until there was an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, including an assessment of associated risks, and that a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism was in place for those activities, with the exception of small-scale scientific research studies within coastal waters, and stated that such studies should be authorized only if justified by the need to gather specific scientific data, should be subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts of the research studies on the marine environment, should be strictly controlled and should not be used for generating and selling carbon offsets or for any other commercial purposes, and notes decision X/29, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010,[254] in which the Conference of the Parties requested parties to implement decision IX/16 C;

157. *Reaffirms* paragraph 119 of resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 regarding ecosystem approaches and oceans, including the proposed elements of an ecosystem approach, means to achieve implementation of an ecosystem approach and requirements for improved application of an ecosystem approach, and in this regard:

(*a*) Notes that continued environmental degradation in many parts of the world and increasing competing demands require an urgent response and the setting of priorities for management actions aimed at conserving ecosystem integrity;

(*b*) Notes that ecosystem approaches to ocean management should be focused on managing human activities in order to maintain and, where needed, restore ecosystem health to sustain goods and environmental services, provide social and economic benefits for food security, sustain livelihoods in support of international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and conserve marine biodiversity;

(*c*) Recalls that States should be guided in the application of ecosystem approaches by a number of existing instruments, in particular the Convention, which sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and its implementing Agreements, as well as other commitments, such as those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity[255] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development call for the application of an ecosystem approach by 2010, and in this context encourages States to enhance their efforts towards applying such an approach;

(*d*) Encourages States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts and take, individually or jointly, as appropriate, all measures, in conformity with international law, including the Convention and other applicable instruments, to address impacts on marine ecosystems within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking into account the integrity of the ecosystems concerned;

158. *Encourages* competent organizations and bodies that have not yet done so to incorporate an ecosystem approach into their mandates, as appropriate, in order to address impacts on marine ecosystems;

159. *Invites* States, in particular those States with advanced technology and marine capabilities, to explore prospects for improving cooperation with, and assistance to, developing States, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, with a view to better integrating into national policies and programmes sustainable and effective development in the marine sector;

160. *Encourages* the competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other funding agencies to consider expanding their programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries and to coordinate their efforts, including in the allocation and application of Global Environment Facility funding;

161. *Notes* the information compiled by the Secretariat[256] in relation to the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans, as provided by States and competent international organizations and global and regional funding agencies, and urges them to provide information for the annual report of the Secretary-General and for incorporation on the website of the Division;[185]

162. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, to facilitate its early entry into force;[257]

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[254] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

[255] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[256] A/63/342.

[257] See International Maritime Organization, document SR/CONF/45.

163. *Takes note* of the role of the Basel Convention[210] in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes;

164. *Notes with concern* the potential for serious environmental consequences resulting from oil spill incidents, urges States, consistent with international law, to cooperate, directly or through competent international organizations, and share best practices, in the fields of protection of the marine environment, human health and safety, prevention, emergency response and mitigation, and encourages the undertaking of scientific research, including marine scientific research, to better understand the consequences of marine oil spills;

X

Marine biodiversity

165. *Reaffirms* its central role relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes the work of States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies on those issues, and invites them to contribute to its consideration of these issues within the areas of their respective competence;

166. *Welcomes* the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, convened in New York from 31 May to 3 June 2011 in accordance with paragraph 163 of resolution 65/37 A, and endorses its recommendations;[178]

167. *Decides*, accordingly, to initiate within the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group the process provided for in paragraph 1 (*a*) of the recommendations of the Working Group,[178] that the process will address the issues identified in paragraph 1 (*b*) of the recommendations and in the fashion described in that paragraph, and that the process will take place: (i) in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group; and (ii) in the format of intersessional workshops as described in paragraph 1 (*c*) of the recommendations;

168. *Requests* the Secretary-General, consequently, noting paragraph 73 of resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004, to convene meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group in accordance with paragraph 167 of the present resolution and paragraphs 79 and 80 of resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005, and in this regard to convene, with full conference services, a meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, to take place from 7 to 11 May 2012, to provide recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet the requirement for full conference services within existing resources;

169. *Recognizes* the abundance and diversity of marine genetic resources and their value in terms of the benefits, goods and services they can provide;

170. *Also recognizes* the importance of research on marine genetic resources for the purpose of enhancing the scientific understanding, potential use and application, and enhanced management of marine ecosystems;

171. *Encourages* States and international organizations, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and partnerships, to continue in a sustainable and comprehensive way to support, promote and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research, taking into account, in particular, the need to create greater taxonomic capabilities;

172. *Notes* the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity[258] and the Convention on Biological Diversity elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity,[259] and, while reiterating the central role of the General Assembly relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes the work done by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

173. *Reaffirms* the need for States, individually or through competent international organizations, to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach and in accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features;

174. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to urgently take further action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals;

175. *Calls upon* States to strengthen, in a manner consistent with international law, in particular the Convention, the conservation and management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and national policies in relation to marine protected areas;

176. *Reaffirms* the need for States to continue and intensify their efforts, directly and through competent international organizations, to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas, consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on the best scientific information available, and the development of representative networks of any such marine protected areas by 2012;

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[258] See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.

[259] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/5, annex I.

177. *Notes* the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas that require protection, in light of the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, such as ecosystem approaches and the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on scientific information, including representative networks, by 2012;[189]

178. *Encourages* States to further progress towards the 2012 target for the establishment of marine protected areas, including representative networks, and calls upon States to further consider options to identify and protect ecologically or biologically significant areas, consistent with international law and on the basis of the best available scientific information;

179. *Recalls* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its ninth meeting, adopted scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats and scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,[260] and further recalls that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has developed guidance for the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems through the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas;[261]

180. *Acknowledges* the Micronesia Challenge, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project, the Caribbean Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative, which in particular seek to create and link domestic marine protected areas to better facilitate ecosystem approaches, and reaffirms the need for further international cooperation, coordination and collaboration in support of such initiatives;

181. *Reiterates its support* for the International Coral Reef Initiative, takes note of the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting, held in Saint-Denis, Réunion, from 12 to 15 December 2011, and supports the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs;

182. *Encourages* States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, inter alia, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such events and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification;

183. *Encourages* States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in exchanging information in the event of accidents involving vessels on coral reefs and in promoting the development of economic assessment techniques for both restoration and non-use values of coral reef systems;

184. *Emphasizes* the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community;

185. *Notes* that ocean noise is a potential threat to living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on living marine resources, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website;

XI

Marine science

186. *Calls upon* States, individually or in collaboration with each other or with competent international organizations and bodies, to continue to strive to improve understanding and knowledge of the oceans and the deep sea, including, in particular, the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems, by increasing their marine scientific research activities in accordance with the Convention;

187. *Encourages*, in that regard, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the Endowment Fund of the International Seabed Authority in order to promote the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the international seabed area by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in relevant programmes, initiatives and activities;

188. *Invites* all relevant organizations, funds, programmes and bodies within the United Nations system, in consultation with interested States, to coordinate relevant activities with regional and national marine scientific and technological centres in small island developing States, as appropriate, to ensure the more effective achievement of their objectives in accordance with relevant United Nations small

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[260] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/20, annexes I and II.

[261] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Rome, 4–8 February and 25–29 August 2008*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 881 (FIEP/R881 (Tri)), appendix F.

island developing States development programmes and strategies;

189. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, with the advice of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, on the development of procedures for the implementation of Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention, and also takes note of the ongoing review of the Advisory Body of Experts by an open-ended working group with representatives from member States;

190. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Advisory Body of Experts, including its work in cooperation with the Division, on the practice of member States related to marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology within the framework of the Convention;

191. *Also notes with appreciation* the issuance of the revised publication entitled *Marine Scientific Research: A guide to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* in December 2010,[262] and requests the Secretariat to make efforts to publish the guide in all official languages of the United Nations;

192. *Notes* the contribution of the Census of Marine Life to marine biodiversity research, including through its report entitled "First Census of Marine Life 2010: Highlights of a Decade of Discovery";

193. *Stresses* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability and in the establishment and operation of tsunami warning systems;

194. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Member States towards the establishment of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems, welcomes the continued collaboration of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in this effort, and encourages Member States to establish and sustain their national warning and mitigation systems, within a global, ocean-related multi-hazard approach, as necessary, to reduce loss of life and damage to national economies and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters;

195. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly following tsunami events caused by earthquakes, such as the 11 March 2011 event in Japan;

196. *Notes* the 2011 report of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, entitled "Ocean data buoy vandalism – incidence, impact and responses";[263]

197. *Urges* States to take necessary action and to cooperate in relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to address damage to ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law, including through education and outreach about the importance and purpose of these buoys, and by strengthening these buoys against such damage, and increasing reporting of such damage;

XII

Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

198. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

199. *Welcomes* the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, convened in New York from 14 to 18 February 2011 in accordance with paragraph 203 of resolution 65/37 A and on 27 and 28 June 2011 in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 65/37 B;

200. *Endorses* the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its second meeting;[181]

201. *Reaffirms* the principles guiding the Regular Process and the objective and scope of its first cycle (2010–2014) as agreed upon at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2009;[264]

202. *Adopts* the criteria for the appointment of experts and the guidelines for workshops to assist the Regular Process;[181]

203. *Takes note* of the draft terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine

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[262] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.V.12.

[263] World Meteorological Organization-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Data Buoy Cooperation Panel, DBCP Technical Document No. 41.

[264] See A/64/347, annex.

Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, the report on communication requirements and data and information management for the Regular Process and the report on the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments and types of experts for workshops;[181]

204. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments to the attention of Member States, heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to capacity-building for assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, as well as funding institutions, and invite their contribution to the preliminary inventory on existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments;

205. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the Bureau to put into practice the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the intersessional period, such as approving the assignments of members of the pool of experts to work on drafting or to review drafts, and approving arrangements proposed by the Group of Experts for peer review;

206. *Decides* that the Bureau shall be composed of fifteen Member States (three Member States from each regional group) and that at least one co-chair and a quorum of five Member States, one per regional group, shall be considered as the minimum requirement for the Bureau to perform its functions;

207. *Recommends* that workshops be organized at the earliest possible opportunity in order to inform the first cycle of the Regular Process and welcomes the first of those workshops, held in Santiago from 13 to 15 September 2011, takes note of its report[265] and invites other States to host such workshops, and in this regard notes with appreciation the offer made by China to host a workshop for the Eastern and South-Eastern Asian Seas, which is planned for the end of February 2012, and the offer made by Belgium to host a workshop for the North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in March 2012;

208. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from 23 to 27 April 2012 with a view to enabling the first cycle of the first global integrated assessment to proceed, and to provide recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

209. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of States aimed at the finalization of the possible outline for the first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects,[181] which would be further considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its next meeting;

210. *Recalls* that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and is an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the Convention and other applicable international instruments, and takes into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

211. *Emphasizes* that the first cycle of the Regular Process has begun and that the deadline for the first integrated assessment is 2014;

212. *Notes* that the first phase of the first cycle of the Regular Process (2010–2012) will provide for the preparation of key questions to be answered by the first integrated assessment, at all regional levels, to ensure an effective science-policy relationship and the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular local experts, in defining specific objectives and scope of the assessments;

213. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other competent United Nations specialized agencies, as appropriate, to continue to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process;

214. *Requests* the secretariat of the Regular Process to convene at least one meeting of the Group of Experts, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, prior to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

215. *Notes with appreciation* the support provided by the Division to the Regular Process, and notes also with appreciation the technical and logistical support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

216. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promptly take appropriate measures, by mobilizing all available extrabudgetary and existing resources, including through the redeployment of staff, to further strengthen the capacity of the Division, in particular its human resources, serving as the secretariat of the Regular Process, including in the context of the programme budget for the current biennium and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

217. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, expresses its serious concern regarding the limited resources available in the trust fund, and urges Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to those funds

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[265] A/66/587, annex.

established pursuant to paragraph 183 of resolution 64/71 and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

XIII

Regional cooperation

218. *Notes* that there have been a number of initiatives at the regional level, in various regions, to further the implementation of the Convention, takes note in that context of the Caribbean-focused Assistance Fund, which is intended to facilitate, mainly through technical assistance, the voluntary undertaking of maritime delimitation negotiations between Caribbean States, takes note once again of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, established by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2000 as a primary mechanism, given its broader regional scope, for the prevention and resolution of pending territorial, land border and maritime boundary disputes, and calls upon States and others in a position to do so to contribute to these funds;

219. *Notes with appreciation* efforts at the regional level to further the implementation of the Convention and respond, including through capacity-building, to issues related to maritime safety and security, the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;

220. *Invites* States and international organizations to enhance their cooperation to better protect the marine environment, and in this respect welcomes the memorandum of understanding for enhanced cooperation, concluded between the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organization;

221. *Recognizes* the results of the International Polar Year, 2007–2008, with particular emphasis on new knowledge about the linkages between environmental change in the polar regions and global climate systems, encourages States and scientific communities to strengthen their cooperation in this respect, and notes the International Polar Year "From Knowledge to Action" Conference to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 22 to 27 April 2012;

222. *Welcomes* regional cooperation, and in this regard notes the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an initiative to enhance cooperation among coastal States in the Pacific island region to foster marine conservation and sustainable development;

223. *Notes with appreciation* the various cooperative efforts displayed by States at the regional and subregional levels, and in this regard welcomes initiatives such as the Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem;

224. *Notes* the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic;

XIV

Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

225. *Welcomes* the report on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its twelfth meeting, which focused on contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges;[179]

226. *Recognizes* the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics;

227. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Consultative Process and its contribution to improving coordination and cooperation between States and strengthening the annual debate of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea by effectively drawing attention to key issues and current trends, emphasizes the timeliness of this year's topic, and in this regard encourages States to consider the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as an opportunity to consider measures to implement internationally agreed goals and commitments relating to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment and its resources;

228. *Also welcomes* efforts to improve and focus the work of the Informal Consultative Process, and in that respect recognizes the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development, and recommends that the Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea;

229. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Informal Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Informal Consultative Process;

230. *Also recalls* that a further review of the effectiveness and utility of the Informal Consultative Process will be

undertaken by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

231. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, the thirteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in New York from 29 May to 1 June 2012, to provide it with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

232. *Expresses its continued serious concern* regarding the lack of resources available in the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, and urges States to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

233. *Decides* that those representatives from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process shall receive priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 in order to cover the costs of their travel, and shall also be eligible to receive daily subsistence allowance subject to the availability of funds after the travel costs of all other eligible representatives from those countries mentioned in paragraph 232 above have been covered;

234. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 65/37 A that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process will focus its discussions at its thirteenth meeting on marine renewable energies;

XV

Coordination and cooperation

235. *Encourages* States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

236. *Encourages* bodies established by the Convention to strengthen coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, in fulfilling their respective mandates;

237. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

238. *Welcomes* the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

239. *Invites* the Joint Inspection Unit to review UN-Oceans and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly for its consideration, and requests UN-Oceans to submit to the Assembly draft terms of reference for its work, to be considered by the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with a view to reviewing the mandate of UN-Oceans and enhancing transparency and reporting of its activities to Member States;

240. *Encourages* continued updates to Member States by UN-Oceans regarding its priorities and initiatives, in particular with respect to the proposed participation in UN-Oceans;

XVI

Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

241. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared by the Division, as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

242. *Notes with satisfaction* the third observance by the United Nations of World Oceans Day on 8 June 2011, recognizes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the Division in organizing its celebration, and invites the Division to continue to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs in the context of the future observance of World Oceans Day, as well as through its participation in other events such as the World Expo to be held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, in 2012;

243. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him in the Convention and by the related resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

244. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication activities of the Division, in particular through the publication of *The Law of the Sea: A Select Bibliography* and the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*;

XVII

Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention

245. *Decides* to devote two days of plenary meetings at its sixty-seventh session, on 10 and 11 December 2012, to the consideration of the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" and the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention, including special recognition of the crucial role played by Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta and, in particular, his visionary speech delivered on 1 November 1967 before the General Assembly, leading to the adoption of the Convention, and encourages Member States and observers to be represented at the highest possible level;

246. *Invites* States Parties to the Convention to commemorate at their twenty-second meeting the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention;

247. *Welcomes* the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority to convene a special meeting during its eighteenth session to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention;[266]

248. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize, as appropriate, activities to mark this occasion, and invites States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies, in accordance with the practices of the United Nations, to support these activities, as appropriate;

XVIII

Sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

249. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and to make the section of the report related to the topic that is the focus of the thirteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process available at least six weeks in advance of the meeting of the Informal Consultative Process;

250. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the annual report of the Secretary-General, which integrates information on developments relating to the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organization, its specialized agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea at the global and regional levels, and as a result constitutes the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review;

251. *Notes* that the report referred to in paragraph 249 above will also be submitted to States Parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention regarding issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention;

252. *Also notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea, decides that the period of the informal consultations on that resolution should not exceed a maximum of two weeks in total and that the consultations should be scheduled in such a way that the Division has sufficient time to produce the report referred to in paragraph 249 above, and invites States to submit text proposals for inclusion in the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations at the earliest possible date;

253. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

Annex

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction[178]

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, having met from 31 May to 3 June 2011 in accordance with paragraph 163 of General Assembly resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010, recommends that:

(*a*) A process be initiated, by the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, including through the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[176]

(*b*) This process address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;

(*c*) This process take place: (i) in the existing Working Group; and (ii) in the format of intersessional workshops aimed at improving understanding of the issues and clarifying key questions as an input to the work of the Working Group;

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[266] See ISBA/17/A/8.

(*d*) The mandate of the Working Group be reviewed and, as appropriate, amended, with a view to undertaking the tasks entrusted by the present recommendations;

(*e*) The Secretary-General be requested to convene a meeting of the Working Group in 2012 to make progress on all issues under examination within the Working Group and to provide recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

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RESOLUTION 66/20

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/401, para. 8)[1]

66/20. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/72 of 4 December 1998, 54/43 of 1 December 1999, 56/14 of 29 November 2001, 58/28 of 8 December 2003, 60/44 of 8 December 2005, 62/13 of 5 December 2007 and 64/22 of 2 December 2009 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Recalling also its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994, 51/38 of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information regarding their implementation,

Noting that, since then, national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographical regions,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Also convinced that transparency in military matters is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States worldwide and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

Noting the role of the standardized reporting system, as instituted through its resolution 35/142 B, as an important instrument to enhance transparency in military matters,

Conscious that the value of the standardized reporting system would be enhanced by a broader participation of Member States,

Noting that a periodic review of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures could facilitate its further development and maintain its continued relevance and operation, and recalling resolution 62/13, in which the General Assembly established the Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures,

Recalling, in that regard, the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, on how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,[2]

Recalling also that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the standardized reporting system,

Welcoming the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on further ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, on how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,[3]

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the Standardized Instrument under the current political and economic circumstances,

Mindful of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including its Article 26,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures,[3] the recommendations contained therein and the new title of the instrument, namely, the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving the broadest possible participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 30 April annually, with reports on their military

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[1] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[2] See A/54/298.

[3] See A/66/89 and Corr.1–3.

expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using preferably and to the extent possible, one of the reporting forms, including a "nil" report if appropriate, on the basis of recommendations contained in paragraphs 68 to 71 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and annex II thereto, or as appropriate, any other format developed in the context of similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

3. *Recommends* that, for the purpose of reporting by Member States of their national military expenditures in the framework of the Report on Military Expenditures, "military expenditures" be commonly understood to refer to all financial resources that a State spends on the uses and functions of its military forces and information on military expenditures represents an actual outlay in current prices and domestic currency;

4. *Also recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

5. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to supplement their reports, on a voluntary basis, with explanatory remarks regarding submitted data to explain or clarify the figures provided in the reporting forms, such as the total military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product, major changes from previous reports and any additional information reflecting their defence policy, military strategies and doctrines;

6. *Invites* Member States to provide, preferably with their annual report, their national points of contact, on the basis of annex II and paragraph 72 (*e*) of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

7. *Encourages* relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarities among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

8. *Takes note* of the annual reports of the Secretary-General;[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within available resources:

(*a*) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of their Report on Military Expenditures;

(*b*) To circulate annually a note verbale to Member States detailing which reports on military expenditures were submitted and are available electronically on the website for military expenditures;[5]

(*c*) To continue consultations with relevant international bodies, with a view to ascertaining requirements for adjusting the present instrument, with a view to encouraging wider participation, and to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the standardized reporting system;

(*d*) To encourage relevant international bodies and organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to consult with those bodies and organizations with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarities among international and regional reporting systems and for exchanging related information between those bodies and the United Nations;

(*e*) To continue to foster further cooperation with relevant regional organizations with a view to raising awareness of the Report on Military Expenditures and its role as a confidence-building measure;

(*f*) To encourage the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;

(*g*) To promote international and regional/subregional symposiums and training seminars to explain the purpose of the standardized reporting system and to give relevant technical instructions;

(*h*) To report on experiences gained during such symposiums and training seminars;

(*i*) To provide, upon request, technical assistance to Member States lacking the capacity to report data, and to encourage Member States to voluntarily provide bilateral assistance to other Member States;

(*j*) To encourage the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the financial and technical support of interested States, as appropriate, to continue to improve the existing database on military expenditures with a view to making it more user-friendly and up-to-date technologically and to increasing its functionality;

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[4] A/58/202 and Add.1–3, A/59/192 and Add.1, A/60/159 and Add.1–3, A/61/133 and Add.1–3, A/62/158 and Add.1–3, A/63/97 and Add.1 and 2, A/64/113 and Add.1 and 2, A/65/118 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 and A/66/117 and Add.1.

[5] www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Milex/.

10. *Encourages* Member States:

(*a*) To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;

(*b*) To continue to provide the Secretary-General with their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the future functioning of and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure,

11. *Recommends* the establishment of a process for periodic reviews, in order to ensure the continued relevance and operation of the Report on Military Expenditures and that another review of the continuing relevance and operation of the Report be conducted in five years;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

RESOLUTION 66/21

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/402, para. 7),[6] by a recorded vote of 168 to 1, with 1 abstention, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Israel

66/21. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999, 57/50 of 22 November 2002, 60/46 of 8 December 2005 and 63/36 of 2 December 2008 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling further paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[7]

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,[8]

Noting with appreciation the discussions which have been held in the Conference on Disarmament under the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",[9]

Noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when

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[6] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[7] Resolution S-10/2.

[8] The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/65/27), chap. III, sect. E; and ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/66/27), chap. III, sect. E.

necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

RESOLUTION 66/22

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/403, para. 7),[10] by a recorded vote of 124 to 4, with 46 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

66/22. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 54/47 of 1 December 1999, 56/16 of 29 November 2001, 58/29 of 8 December 2003, 60/48 of 8 December 2005, 62/14 of 5 December 2007 and 64/23 of 2 December 2009 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in New York from 2 to 13 July 1979,[11]

Recalling further paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur in 24 and 25 February 2003,[12] in which it was noted, inter alia, that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches that are conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Considering that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

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[10] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

[12] See A/57/759-S/2003/332, annex I.

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean,[13]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[13]

2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

RESOLUTION 66/23

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/404, para. 7)[14]

66/23. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[15] in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[16] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[17] affirming that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[15] on 15 July 2009;

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty[15] that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;

4. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

5. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[18] that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[19]

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No 29* (A/66/29).

[14] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Chile, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

[15] See A/50/426, annex.

[16] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

[17] S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996.*

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[19] Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards (International Atomic Energy Agency, document INFCIRC/540 (Corrected)).

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

RESOLUTION 66/24

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/407, para. 8)[20]

66/24. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007, 63/37 of 2 December 2008, 64/25 of 2 December 2009 and 65/41 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that were made,[21]

Bearing in mind also the results of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase),[22]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19, 57/53, 58/32, 59/61, 60/45, 61/54, 62/17, 63/37, 64/25 and 65/41,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,[23]

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening international meetings of experts in Geneva in August 1999 and April 2008 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as the results of those meetings,

Considering that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meetings of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General, in fulfilment of resolution 60/45, established in 2009, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts, which, in accordance with its mandate, considered existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them and conducted a study on relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems,

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[20] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

[21] See A/51/261, annex.

[22] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687.

[23] A/54/213, A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/56/164 and Add.1, A/57/166 and Add.1, A/58/373, A/59/116 and Add.1, A/60/95 and Add.1, A/61/161 and Add.1, A/62/98 and Add.1, A/64/129 and Add.1, A/65/154 and A/66/152 and Add.1.

Welcoming the effective work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the relevant report transmitted by the Secretary-General,[24]

Taking note of the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such strategies could be served through further examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,[24] to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(*a*) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(*b*) Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in this field;

(*c*) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

(*d*) Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2012 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report, to continue to study existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures with regard to information space, as well as the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 above, and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the results of this study;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

RESOLUTION 66/25

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/408, para. 7)[25]

66/25. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997, 53/74 of 4 December 1998, 54/51 of 1 December 1999, 55/30 of 20 November 2000, 56/21 of 29 November 2001, 57/55 of 22 November 2002, 58/34 of 8 December 2003, 59/63 of 3 December 2004, 60/52 of 8 December 2005, 61/56 of 6 December 2006, 62/18 of 5 December 2007, 63/38 of 2 December 2008, 64/26 of 2 December 2009 and 65/42 of 8 December 2010 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[26]

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

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[24] See A/65/201.

[25] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Egypt.

[26] Resolution S-10/2.

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 65/42,[27]

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[28]

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not yet done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(55)/RES/14, adopted on 23 September 2011 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-fifth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;[29]

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[26] and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[27]

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990[30] or

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[27] A/66/153 (Part I) and Add.1 and 2.

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[29] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Fifty-fifth Regular Session, 19–23 September 2011* (GC(55)/RES/DEC(2011)).

[30] A/45/435.

other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

RESOLUTION 66/26

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/409, para. 7),[31] by a recorded vote of 120 to none, with 57 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

66/26. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Noting that the renewed interest in nuclear disarmament should be translated into concrete actions for the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined to abide strictly by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[32] in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament[33] submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament,[34] and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament,[35] as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,[36]

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[31] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

[32] Resolution S-10/2.

[33] The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[34] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,[37] with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003,[38] which was reiterated at the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana and Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 15 and 16 September 2006,[39] and 15 and 16 July 2009,[40] respectively, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997, 53/75 of 4 December 1998, 54/52 of 1 December 1999, 55/31 of 20 November 2000, 56/22 of 29 November 2001, 57/56 of 22 November 2002, 58/35 of 8 December 2003, 59/64 of 3 December 2004, 60/53 of 8 December 2005, 61/57 of 6 December 2006, 62/19 of 5 December 2007, 63/39 of 2 December 2008, 64/27 of 2 December 2009 and 65/43 of 8 December 2010,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Also recommends* that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international agreements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

RESOLUTION 66/27

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/410, para. 7),[41] by a recorded vote of 176 to none, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

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[35] Ibid., *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

[36] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), sect. III.F.

[37] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/48/27), para. 39.

[38] See A/57/759-S/2003/332, annex I.

[39] See A/61/472-S/2006/780, annex I.

[40] See S/2009/459, annex, para. 118.

[41] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan and Trinidad and Tobago.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Israel, United States of America

66/27. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[42]

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[43] in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,[44] and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,[45]

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

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[42] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[43] Resolution S-10/2.

[44] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/49/27), sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

[45] CD/1125.

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament in 2009, 2010 and 2011,

Taking note of the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects,[46]

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[42]

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;[47]

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible during its 2012 session;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

RESOLUTION 66/28

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[48] by a recorded vote of 118 to 52, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan,

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[46] See CD/1839.

[47] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/45/27), para. 118 (para. 63 of the quoted text).

[48] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Sri Lanka.

Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Armenia, China, India, Pakistan, Samoa, Tonga

66/28. Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its various resolutions in the field of nuclear disarmament, including its recent resolutions 64/31 of 2 December 2009 and 65/56, 65/76 and 65/80 of 8 December 2010,

Bearing in mind its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[49]

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of review conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 Q of 12 December 1995, in which the General Assembly noted that the States parties to the Treaty affirmed the need to continue to move with determination towards the full realization and effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty, and accordingly adopted a set of principles and objectives,

Recalling also that, on 11 May 1995, the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted three decisions on, respectively, strengthening the review process for the Treaty, principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and extension of the Treaty,[50]

Reaffirming the resolution on the Middle East adopted on 11 May 1995 by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference,[50] in which the Conference reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and placement of nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Reaffirming also its resolution 55/33 D of 20 November 2000, in which the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus on 19 May 2000 of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[51] including, in particular, the documents entitled "Review of the operation of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference" and "Improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process for the Treaty",[52]

Taking into consideration the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty,

Welcoming the adoption by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of a substantive Final Document containing conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions relating to nuclear disarmament,[53]

1. *Recalls* that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[54]

2. *Determines* to pursue practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[49] and paragraphs 3 and 4 (*c*) of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[50]

3. *Calls for* practical steps, as agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-

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[49] See also United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[50] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[51] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

[52] Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I.

[53] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*, sect. I.

[54] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be taken by all nuclear-weapon States, which would lead to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability and, based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

(*a*) Further efforts to be made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;

(*b*) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress in nuclear disarmament;

(*c*) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(*d*) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;

(*e*) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies so as to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(*f*) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons;

4. *Notes* that the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences agreed that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime;

5. *Urges* the States parties to the Treaty to follow up on the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences within the framework of review conferences and their preparatory committees;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session an item entitled "Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons".

RESOLUTION 66/29

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[55] by a recorded vote of 162 to none, with 18 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

66/29. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54 B of 1 December 1999, 55/33 V of 20 November 2000, 56/24 M of 29 November 2001, 57/74 of 22 November 2002, 58/53 of 8 December 2003, 59/84 of 3 December 2004, 60/80 of 8 December 2005, 61/84 of 6 December 2006, 62/41 of 5 December 2007, 63/42 of 2 December 2008, 64/56 of 2 December 2009 and 65/48 of 8 December 2010,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or injure thousands of people — women, girls, boys and men — every year, and which place people living in affected areas at risk and hinder the development of their communities,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in ensuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

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[55] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Cambodia and Norway.

Noting with satisfaction the work undertaken to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[56] and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global anti-personnel landmine problem,

Recalling the first to tenth meetings of the States parties to the Convention, held in Maputo (1999),[57] Geneva (2000),[58] Managua (2001),[59] Geneva (2002),[60] Bangkok (2003),[61] Zagreb (2005),[62] Geneva (2006),[63] the Dead Sea (2007),[64] Geneva (2008)[65] and Geneva (2010)[66] and the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi (2004),[67]

Recalling also the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 30 November to 4 December 2009,[68] at which the international community reviewed the implementation of the Convention and the States parties adopted the Cartagena Declaration[69] and the Cartagena Action Plan 2010–2014[70] to support enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that additional States have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention to one hundred and fifty-seven,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization and norms,

Noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in some conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. *Invites* all States that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[56] to accede to it without delay;

2. *Urges* all States that have signed but have not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the continued implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010–2014;[70]

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;

6. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education programmes and the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world;

7. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach, seminars and other means;

8. *Reiterates its invitation and encouragement* to all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Phnom Penh from 28 November to 2 December 2011, and to participate in the future meeting programme of the Convention;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention and, on behalf of the States parties and in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations, to attend the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties and future meetings as observers;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 66/30

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[71]

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[56] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

[57] See APLC/MSP.1/1999/1.

[58] See APLC/MSP.2/2000/1.

[59] See APLC/MSP.3/2001/1.

[60] See APLC/MSP.4/2002/1.

[61] See APLC/MSP.5/2003/5.

[62] See APLC/MSP.6/2005/5.

[63] See APLC/MSP.7/2006/5.

[64] See APLC/MSP.8/2007/6.

[65] See APLC/MSP.9/2008/4 and Corr.1 and 2.

[66] See APLC/MSP.10/2010/7.

[67] See APLC/CONF/2004/5 and Corr.1.

[68] See APLC/CONF/2009/9.

[69] Ibid., part IV.

[70] Ibid., part III.

[71] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

66/30. Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,[72] as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[73]

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004, 60/61 of 8 December 2005, 61/64 of 6 December 2006, 62/48 of 5 December 2007, 63/52 of 2 December 2008, 64/32 of 2 December 2009 and 65/52 of 8 December 2010, and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[74] and the Final Document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000,[75] as well as the Final Documents of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009,[76] and of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,[77]

Mindful of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

Bearing in mind the new challenges for the international community in the fields of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development[78] and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

Bearing in mind the importance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[73]

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;[73]

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose in 2012, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and subregional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development into their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;[78]

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[72] See resolution S-10/2.

[73] See *Report of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August 11–September 1987* (A/CONF.130/39).

[74] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I.

[75] A/54/917-S/2000/580, annex.

[76] A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[77] A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I.

[78] See A/59/119.

6. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information provided by Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 above;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

RESOLUTION 66/31

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[79]

66/31. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December 2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004, 60/60 of 8 December 2005, 61/63 of 6 December 2006, 62/28 of 5 December 2007, 63/51 of 2 December 2008, 64/33 of 2 December 2009 and 65/53 of 8 December 2010,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 65/53,[80]

Noting that the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, and the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly, without a vote, of resolutions 63/51 and 65/53, on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and the implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;[80]

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

RESOLUTION 66/32

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[81] by a recorded vote of 125 to 5, with 48 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados,

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[79] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[80] A/66/97 and Add.1.

[81] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Brazil, and Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

66/32. Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

The General Assembly,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 56/24 T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolutions 57/63 of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004, 60/59 of 8 December 2005, 61/62 of 6 December 2006, 62/27 of 5 December 2007, 63/50 of 2 December 2008, 64/34 of 2 December 2009 and 65/54 of 8 December 2010 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recalling also the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[82] which states, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Convinced that, in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and, therefore, should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them,

Bearing in mind the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

Aware of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

Recognizing also that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

Considering that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

Stressing that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would make an essential contribution to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

Being concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that a resort to unilateral actions by Member States in resolving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

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[82] See resolution 55/2.

Noting that the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, and the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011, welcomed the adoption of resolutions 63/50 and 65/54, on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;

2. *Also reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. *Urges* the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing mankind;

5. *Calls once again upon* all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Requests* the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 65/54;[83]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

RESOLUTION 66/33

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[84] by a recorded vote of 175 to none, with 3 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: India, Israel, Pakistan

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[83] A/66/111 and Add.1.

[84] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by the Philippines.

66/33. 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[85]

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of review conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling the outcomes of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[86] and of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,[87]

Recalling also the decision of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process for the Treaty,[88] which reaffirmed the provisions in the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,[89]

Noting the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, in which it was agreed that review conferences should continue to be held every five years, and noting that, accordingly, the next review conference should be held in 2015,

Recalling the decision of the 2000 Review Conference that three sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be held in the years prior to the review conference,[88]

Welcoming the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 3 to 28 May 2010,[90] and reaffirming the necessity of fully implementing the follow-on actions adopted at the Review Conference,[91]

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[85] following appropriate consultations, to hold the first session of the Preparatory Committee in Vienna from 30 April to 11 May 2012;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

RESOLUTION 66/34

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[92]

66/34. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/50 of 8 December 2010 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,

Deeply concerned by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

Concerned by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and

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[85] See also United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[86] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2).

[87] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

[88] Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I.

[89] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex, decision 1.

[90] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

[91] Ibid., vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

[92] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of West African States), Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,[93]

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all",[94] in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of illicit small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling also the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 8 December 2005,[95]

Recalling further the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[96]

Recalling the adoption, at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, held in Abuja in June 2006, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials,[97] in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling also the entry into force of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials on 29 September 2009,

Recalling further the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish a Small Arms Unit responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community's Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 6 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,[98]

Recalling, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play, by raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006,[99]

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and in that regard invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;[100]

6. *Encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in support of programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil

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[93] A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.

[94] A/59/2005.

[95] A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex; see also decision 60/519.

[96] See resolution 60/1, para. 94.

[97] See United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, *Disarmament Forum*, No. 4, 2008, *The Complex Dynamics of Small Arms in West Africa*. Available from www.unidir.org.

[98] A/66/177.

[99] A/CONF.192/2006/RC/9.

[100] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

RESOLUTION 66/35

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[101]

66/35. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 65/57 of 8 December 2010, adopted without a vote, in which it noted with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[102]

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that, since the adoption of resolution 63/48 of 2 December 2008, four additional States have acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and eighty-eight,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Second Review Conference"), including the consensus final report,[103] which addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

Emphasizing that the Second Review Conference welcomed the fact that, eleven years after its entry into force, the Convention remained a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control,

1. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[102] is fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose, acknowledges progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

2. *Underlines* the fact that implementation of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and the prohibition of the acquisition or use of chemical weapons, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

3. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

4. *Reaffirms* the obligation of the States parties to the Convention to destroy chemical weapons and to destroy or convert chemical weapons production facilities within the time limits provided for by the Convention;

5. *Stresses* that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

6. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with

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[101] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Poland.

[102] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

[103] See Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, document RC-2/4.

the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

8. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

9. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, and urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes;

10. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, and welcomes the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons;

11. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of article XI provisions relating to the economic and technological development of States parties, recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and also reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

14. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

RESOLUTION 66/36

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[104]

66/36. Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, 53/77 O of 4 December 1998, 54/54 N of 1 December 1999, 55/33 O of 20 November 2000, 56/24 H of 29 November 2001, 57/76 of 22 November 2002, 58/38 of 8 December 2003, 59/89 of 3 December 2004, 60/63 of 8 December 2005, 61/80 of 6 December 2006, 62/38 of 5 December 2007, 63/43 of 2 December 2008, 64/41 of 2 December 2009 and 65/45 of 8 December 2010 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,[105]

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,[106]

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

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[104] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

[105] See resolution S-10/2.

[106] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/48/42), annex II.

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

RESOLUTION 66/37

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[107] by a recorded vote of 175 to 1, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: India

Abstaining: Bhutan, Russian Federation

66/37. Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997, 53/77 P of 4 December 1998, 54/54 M of 1 December 1999, 55/33 P of 20 November 2000, 56/24 I of 29 November 2001, 57/77 of 22 November 2002, 58/39 of 8 December 2003, 59/88 of 3 December 2004, 60/75 of 8 December 2005, 61/82 of 6 December 2006, 62/44 of 5 December 2007, 63/44 of 2 December 2008, 64/42 of 2 December 2009 and 65/46 of 8 December 2010,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

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[107] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Belarus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, Peru, Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,[108] which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

RESOLUTION 66/38

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[109]

66/38. Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 58/43 of 8 December 2003, 59/87 of 3 December 2004, 60/64 of 8 December 2005, 61/81 of 6 December 2006, 62/45 of 5 December 2007, 63/45 of 2 December 2008, 64/43 of 2 December 2009 and 65/47 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", in which it calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties,

Recalling further the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures and their implementation at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the agreement of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability,

Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue among States concerned to avert conflict,

Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by States concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation, inter alia, by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,

Recognizing that States in some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such confidence-building measures have improved peace and security in those regions and contributed to progress in the socioeconomic conditions of their people,

Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

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[108] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2441, No. 44001.

[109] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bangladesh, Ecuador, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Uruguay.

3. *Reaffirms* the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session;[110]

4. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue;

5. *Urges* States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party;

6. *Emphasizes* that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

7. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

RESOLUTION 66/39

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[111] by a recorded vote of 156 to none, with 23 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

66/39. Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, 52/38 R of 9 December 1997, 53/77 V of 4 December 1998, 54/54 O of 1 December 1999, 55/33 U of 20 November 2000, 56/24 Q of 29 November 2001, 57/75 of 22 November 2002, 58/54 of 8 December 2003, 60/226 of 23 December 2005, 61/77 of 6 December 2006, 63/69 of 2 December 2008 and 64/54 of 2 December 2009, entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[112] constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

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[110] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/48/42), annex II, sect. III.A.

[111] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia.

[112] See resolution 46/36 L.

Welcoming the consolidated reports of the Secretary-General on the Register, which include the returns of Member States for 2009[113] and 2010,[114]

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming further the inclusion by some Member States of their transfers of small arms and light weapons in their annual report to the Register as part of their additional background information,

Noting the focused discussions on transparency in armaments that took place in the Conference on Disarmament in 2010 and 2011,

Expressing its concern with respect to the reduction in reporting to the Register in the last two years,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms its determination* to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[112] as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 31 May annually, with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L, the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[115] the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 of the 2000 report of the Secretary-General and the appendices and annexes thereto,[116] the recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 114 of the 2003 report of the Secretary-General,[117] the recommendations contained in paragraphs 123 to 127 of the 2006 report of the Secretary-General[118] and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 71 to 75 of the 2009 report of the Secretary-General;[119]

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement through national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types or models;

4. *Also invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide additional information on transfers of small arms and light weapons on the basis of the optional standardized reporting form, as adopted by the 2006 group of governmental experts,[120] or by any other methods they deem appropriate;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review and, to that end:

(*a*) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(*b*) Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2012, within available resources, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, relevant deliberations within the United Nations, the views expressed by Member States and the reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to taking a decision at its sixty-eighth session;

(*c*) Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist Member States to build capacity to submit meaningful reports, including capacity to report on small arms and light weapons;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations contained in his 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009 reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

7. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

8. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

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[113] A/65/133 and Add.1–5.

[114] A/66/127.

[115] A/52/316 and Corr.2.

[116] A/55/281.

[117] A/58/274.

[118] See A/61/261.

[119] See A/64/296.

[120] A/61/261, annex I.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

RESOLUTION 66/40

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[121] by a recorded vote of 168 to 6, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Bhutan, China, Micronesia (Federated States of), Pakistan, Palau, Russian Federation

66/40. Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/59 of 8 December 2010,

Reiterating its grave concern at the danger to humanity posed by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used, and recalling the expression of deep concern by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,[122]

Reaffirming that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring urgent irreversible progress on both fronts,

Recalling the decisions entitled "Strengthening the review process for the Treaty", "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" and "Extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and the resolution on the Middle East, all of which were adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[123] and the Final Document of the 2000[124] and the 2010[125] Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling in particular the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[126] and reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their treaty obligations,

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[121] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Austria, and New Zealand (on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition).

[122] See *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

[123] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[124] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

[125] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

[126] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Recognizing the continued vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[127] to the advancement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives, and welcoming the recent ratifications of the Treaty by Ghana and Guinea,

Reaffirming the conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the 2010 Review Conference encouraged the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and expressing the hope that this will be followed by concerted international efforts to create such zones in areas where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East,

Noting with satisfaction the agreement at the 2010 Review Conference on practical steps to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East,

Recognizing positive developments in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, notably the ratification by the Russian Federation of Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Pelindaba,[128] the submission by the United States of America to the United States Senate for advice and consent of the Protocols to the Treaty of Pelindaba and the Treaty of Rarotonga,[129] the consultations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Treaty of Bangkok,[130] and the holding of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, in New York on 30 April 2010,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, while recalling the encouragement of the 2010 Review Conference to both States to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals,

Recalling that the 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed and recognized that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States,

Deeply disappointed at the absence of progress towards multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament issues, including in the Conference on Disarmament, and underlining the importance of multilateralism in relation to nuclear disarmament, while recognizing the value also of bilateral and regional initiatives,

Mindful that the first meeting of the preparatory process for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to take place in May 2012, will begin to lay the groundwork for monitoring the fulfilment by all States parties of their commitments in the 2010 Review Conference action plan,[122] including those by the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament,

1. *Reiterates* that each article of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[126] is binding on the States parties at all times and in all circumstances and that all States parties should be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty, and calls upon all States to comply fully with all decisions, resolutions and other commitments made at Review Conferences;

2. *Welcomes* the adoption by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of a substantive final document containing conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions relating to nuclear disarmament, including concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East;[125]

3. *Also welcomes*, in particular, the resolve of the 2010 Review Conference to seek a safer world for all and to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

4. *Further welcomes* the expression by the 2010 Review Conference of deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and its reaffirmation of the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law;

5. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation of the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[131] including the specific reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their

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[127] See resolution 50/245.

[128] See A/50/426, annex.

[129] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[130] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

[131] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty;

6. *Recalls* the commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures, underlines the recognition by the 2010 Review Conference of the legitimate interests of non-nuclear-weapon States in nuclear-weapon States constraining their development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending their development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take steps in this regard;

7. *Encourages* further steps by all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with the action plan on nuclear disarmament of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference,[122] to ensure the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes and to support the development of appropriate verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament;

8. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[123] recognizes the endorsement by the 2010 Review Conference of practical steps in a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution, including the convening of a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the region, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, calls upon the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in close consultation and cooperation with the States of the region, to undertake all necessary preparations for the convening of the 2012 conference, and in this regard welcomes the recent appointment of a facilitator and designation of a host Government;

9. *Continues to emphasize* the fundamental role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and calls upon all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty, and in this regard urges India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions;

10. *Urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil the commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in the September 2005 joint statement, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to its adherence to the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, and reaffirms its firm support for the Six-Party Talks;

11. *Encourages* all States to work together to overcome obstacles within the international disarmament machinery, including in the Conference on Disarmament, that are inhibiting efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament in a multilateral context;

12. *Stresses*, while noting that the nuclear-weapon States met in Paris on 30 June and 1 July 2011 to consider progress on the commitments they made at the 2010 Review Conference, the importance of the fulfilment of the commitments made by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2010 Review Conference to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and of their prompt engagement to ensure substantial progress in advance of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

13. *Recalls* that the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament as envisaged in action 5 of the 2010 Review Conference action plan is:

(*a*) To rapidly move towards an overall reduction in the global stockpile of all types of nuclear weapons, as identified in action 3 of the action plan;

(*b*) To address the question of all nuclear weapons regardless of their type or their location as an integral part of the general nuclear disarmament process;

(*c*) To further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies;

(*d*) To discuss policies that could prevent the use of nuclear weapons and eventually lead to their elimination, lessen the danger of nuclear war and contribute to the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons;

(*e*) To consider the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear-weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security;

(*f*) To reduce the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons;

(*g*) To further enhance transparency and mutual confidence;

14. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to implement these commitments in a manner that enables the States parties to monitor them regularly during each review cycle, and in this regard urges those States to report regularly on the implementation of the commitments;

15. *Welcomes* the announcements made by some nuclear-weapon States providing information about their

nuclear arsenals, policies and disarmament efforts, urges those nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so also to provide this information, and encourages the nuclear-weapon States to agree as soon as possible on a standard reporting format to facilitate this reporting;

16. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, in this regard and in reference to the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, to regularly report on their efforts, including as part of any review of nuclear policies, to diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts;

17. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to implement all elements of the 2010 Review Conference action plan in a faithful and timely manner so that progress across all of the pillars of the Treaty can be realized;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

RESOLUTION 66/41

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[132]

66/41. National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling that effective national control of the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, including those transfers that could contribute to proliferation activities, is an important tool for achieving those objectives,

Recalling also that the States parties to the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties have undertaken to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of materials, equipment and technological information for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of those treaties,

Considering that the exchange of national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

Convinced that such an exchange would be beneficial to Member States that are in the process of developing such legislation,

Welcoming the electronic database established by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat,[133] in which all information exchanged pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/66 of 22 November 2002, 58/42 of 8 December 2003, 59/66 of 3 December 2004, 60/69 of 8 December 2005, 62/26 of 5 December 2007 and 64/40 of 2 December 2009, entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", can be consulted,

Reaffirming the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Invites* Member States that are in a position to do so, without prejudice to the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and subsequent relevant Council resolutions, to enact or improve national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, while ensuring that such legislation, regulations and procedures are consistent with the obligations of States parties under international treaties;

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on their national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, as well as the changes therein, and requests the Secretary-General to make that information accessible to Member States;

3. *Decides* to remain attentive to the matter.

RESOLUTION 66/42

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[134]

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[132] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by the Netherlands.

[133] Available from www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/NLDU/.

[134] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.

66/42. Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated within the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,[135]

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,[136]

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolutions 60/74 of 8 December 2005 and 61/72 of 6 December 2006, its resolution 63/61 of 2 December 2008, by which it welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus,[137] and its resolution 64/51 of 2 December 2009,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on developing technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, which would be available for States on a voluntary basis, and on improving knowledge resource management on technical ammunition issues within the United Nations system,[138] and taking note also of the subsequent establishment, within the Secretariat, of the "Saf*er*Guard" knowledge resource management programme,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, their means of destruction, if appropriate, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Takes note* of the replies submitted by Member States in response to the request of the Secretary-General for views regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition;[139]

6. *Continues to encourage* States to implement the recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;[137]

7. *Welcomes* the completion of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines[140] and the establishment of the "Saf*er*Guard" knowledge resource management programme for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the full involvement of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72;[137]

8. *Encourages* States wishing to improve their national stockpile management capacity, prevent the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and address wider risk

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[135] See A/54/155.

[136] A/60/88 and Corr.2.

[137] See A/63/182.

[138] Ibid., paras. 72 and 73.

[139] A/61/118 and Add.1 and A/62/166 and Add.1.

[140] Available from www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Ammunition/IATG/.

mitigation to contact the "SaferGuard" programme, as well as potential national donors and regional organizations, as appropriate, with a view to developing cooperation, including, where relevant, technical expertise;

9. *Reiterates its decision* to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus".

RESOLUTION 66/43

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[141]

66/43. Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/39 of 2 December 2009, entitled "Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)",

Welcoming the desire of the South-East Asian States to maintain peace and stability in the region in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding and cooperation,

Noting the entry into force of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on 15 December 2008, which states, inter alia, that one of the purposes of the Association is to preserve South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, free of all other weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also the convening of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia,

Reaffirming its conviction of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones, established, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission,[142] in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in contributing towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament and in extending the areas of the world that are free of nuclear weapons, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calling upon all States to seek a safer world for all and to achieve peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all,

Convinced that the establishment of a South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, as an essential component of the Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971, will contribute towards strengthening the security of States within the Zone and towards enhancing international peace and security as a whole,

Noting the entry into force of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone on 27 March 1997[143] and the tenth anniversary of its entry into force in 2007,

Welcoming the reaffirmation of South-East Asian States that the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone shall continue to play a pivotal role in the area of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and the approaches to conflict resolution as enshrined in the Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Concord II (Bali Concord II),[144]

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[145]

Recognizing that by signing and ratifying the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments to respect the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties,

Recalling the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of innocent passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage or transit passage of ships and aircraft, particularly those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[146]

1. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Commission for the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to further enhance and strengthen the

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[141] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)), Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[142] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

[143] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

[144] A/58/548, annex I.

[145] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[146] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

implementation of the Bangkok Treaty[143] by implementing the Plan of Action for the period 2007–2012, adopted in Manila on 29 July 2007, and the recent decision of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Political-Security Community Council, established under the Charter of the Association, to give priority to the implementation of the Plan of Action;

2. *Also welcomes* the resumption of direct consultations between the States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and the five nuclear-weapon States, and encourages States parties to the Treaty to continue direct consultations with the five nuclear-weapon States to resolve comprehensively, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty, existing outstanding issues on a number of provisions of the Treaty and the Protocol thereto;

3. *Encourages* nuclear-weapon States and States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to work constructively with a view to ensuring the early accession of the nuclear weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty;

4. *Underlines* the value of enhancing and implementing further ways and means of cooperation among the States parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and the protocols thereto;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)".

RESOLUTION 66/44

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[147] by a recorded vote of 158 to 2, with 21 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen

66/44. Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 L of 16 December 1993, 53/77 I of 4 December 1998, 55/33 Y of 20 November 2000, 56/24 J of 29 November 2001, 57/80 of 22 November 2002, 58/57 of 8 December 2003, 59/81 of 3 December 2004, 64/29 of 2 December 2009 and 65/65 of 8 December 2010 on the subject of banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Recalling also document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995, in which all members of the Conference on Disarmament agreed on the mandate to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and which would not preclude any delegation from raising for consideration, in negotiations, any issue noted therein,

Recalling further the support for the Conference on Disarmament expressed by the Security Council summit on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, held on 24 September 2009,

Convinced that a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recognizing the importance of advancing all issues identified in decision CD/1864, adopted by consensus by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009,

Noting the determination of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America at the meeting held in Paris on 30 June and 1 July 2011 to renew their efforts, with relevant parties, to achieve a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices at the earliest possible date in the Conference on Disarmament,

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[147] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Canada.

Expressing frustration with the years of stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, which has prevented it from fulfilling its mandate as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

1. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to agree on and implement early in 2012 a comprehensive programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein;

2. *Resolves* to consider options for the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices at its sixty-seventh session should the Conference on Disarmament fail to agree on and implement a comprehensive programme of work by the end of its 2012 session;

3. *Encourages* interested Member States, without prejudice to their national positions during future negotiations on such a treaty, to continue efforts, including within and on the margins of the Conference on Disarmament, in support of the commencement of negotiations, including through meetings involving scientific experts on various technical aspects of the treaty, drawing on available expertise from the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant bodies, as appropriate;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

RESOLUTION 66/45

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[148] by a recorded vote of 169 to 1, with 11 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Abstaining: Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic

66/45. United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the need for all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons, and in this regard confirming the determination of Member States to take united action,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolution 65/72 of 8 December 2010,

Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, while convinced that every effort should be made to avoid nuclear war and nuclear terrorism,

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[148] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Zambia.

Reaffirming that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,

Reaffirming further the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[149] as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of the Treaty's three pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[150] and the Final Document of the 2000[151] and 2010[152] Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 3 to 28 May 2010, in the year of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and reaffirming the necessity of fully implementing the action plan adopted at the Review Conference,[153]

Noting the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September 2010, and the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to follow up on the high-level meeting, held from 27 to 29 July 2011,

Welcoming the entry into force on 5 February 2011 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,

Welcoming also the recent announcements on overall stockpiles of nuclear warheads by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the update of the Russian Federation on its nuclear arsenals, which further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence,

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Recognizing the importance of the objective of nuclear security, along with the shared goals of Member States of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, welcoming the Nuclear Security Summit, held on 12 and 13 April 2010, and looking forward to the Nuclear Security Summit to be held in Seoul in 2012,

Recognizing also the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) of 14 October 2006 and 1874 (2009) of 12 June 2009 urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and immediately cease all related activities, expressing concern regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's claimed uranium enrichment programme and light water reactor construction, and declaring that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons under any circumstances,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[149] complying with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty;

2. *Also reaffirms* the vital importance of the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon all States not parties to the Treaty to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

3. *Further reaffirms* the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are committed under article VI thereof;

4. *Calls upon* nuclear-weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of applying the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Recognizes* that nuclear disarmament and achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons require openness and cooperation, affirms the importance of

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[149] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[150] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[151] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

[152] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

[153] Ibid., vol. I, part I.

enhanced confidence through increased transparency and effective verification, emphasizes the importance of the commitment by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security, and the call upon the nuclear-weapon States to report their undertakings in 2014 to the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[153] and welcomes in this regard the convening in Paris on 30 June and 1 July 2011 of the first follow-up meeting to the 2010 Review Conference of the five nuclear-weapon States as a transparency and confidence-building measure among them;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing implementation by the Russian Federation and the United States of America of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, and encourages them to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals;

8. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[154] at the earliest opportunity, with a view to its early entry into force and universalization, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and reaffirms the importance of the continued development of the Treaty verification regime, which will be a significant contribution to providing assurance of compliance with the Treaty;

9. *Reiterates its call for* the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and its early conclusion, regrets that negotiations have not yet started, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to declare and maintain moratoriums on the production of fissile material for any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices pending the entry into force of the treaty;

10. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to take measures to further reduce the risk of an accidental or unauthorized launch of nuclear weapons in ways that promote international stability and security, while welcoming the measures already taken by several nuclear-weapon States in this regard;

11. *Also calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to promptly engage with a view to further diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies;

12. *Recognizes* the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, recalls Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995, noting the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances;

13. *Encourages* the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission,[155] and recognizes that, by signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments with respect to the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties;

14. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and to fully respect and comply with obligations undertaken to forswear nuclear weapons;

15. *Stresses* the importance of the universalization of the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency to include States which have not yet adopted and implemented such an agreement, while also strongly reaffirming the follow-on action of the 2010 Review Conference encouraging all States which have not done so to conclude and bring into force as soon as possible the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997,[156] and the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004;

16. *Encourages* every effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear and radiological material, and calls upon all States to work cooperatively as an international community to advance nuclear security, while requesting and providing assistance, including in the field of capacity-building, as necessary;

17. *Encourages* all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-

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[154] See resolution 50/245.

[155] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

[156] International Atomic Energy Agency, document INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).

proliferation education,[157] in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to that end;

18. *Commends and further encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and encourages all States to promote, in cooperation with civil society, disarmament and non-proliferation education which, inter alia, contributes to raising public awareness of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and strengthens the momentum of international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

RESOLUTION 66/46

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[158] by a recorded vote of 130 to 26, with 23 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan

66/46. Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997, 53/77 W of 4 December 1998, 54/54 Q of 1 December 1999, 55/33 X of 20 November 2000, 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, 57/85 of 22 November 2002, 58/46 of 8 December 2003, 59/83 of 3 December 2004, 60/76 of 8 December 2005, 61/83 of 6 December 2006, 62/39 of 5 December 2007, 63/49 of 2 December 2008, 64/55 of 2 December 2009 and 65/76 of 8 December 2010,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humanity and all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the realization of the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[159] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[160] the unequivocal commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[161] and the action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as part of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions on nuclear disarmament,[162]

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[157] See A/57/124.

[158] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

[159] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[160] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex, decision 2.

Sharing the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Calling upon all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts, and stressing that all States need to make special efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Noting the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General,[163] in which he proposes, inter alia, the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification,

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty,[164] the treaties of Tlatelolco,[165] Rarotonga,[166] Bangkok[167] and Pelindaba[168] and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Stressing the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the thirteen practical steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons leading to nuclear disarmament, contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference,[161]

Taking note of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention that was submitted to the Secretary-General by Costa Rica and Malaysia in 2007 and circulated by the Secretary-General,[169]

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[170]

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken with respect to the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

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[161] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

[162] See *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)), vol. I, part I.

[163] Available from www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/sg5point.

[164] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[165] Ibid., vol. 634, No. 9068.

[166] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[167] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

[168] A/50/426, annex.

[169] See A/62/650, annex.

[170] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

RESOLUTION 66/47

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[171]

66/47. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/64 of 8 December 2010, as well as all previous resolutions entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[172]

Welcoming the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action, and recognizing its important contribution to international efforts on this matter,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),[173]

Recalling the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Underlining the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Welcoming the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 13 May 2011,

Welcoming also the early designation of Nigeria as the Chair of the second conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be held in 2012, and of its preparatory committee,

Stressing the importance of voluntary national reporting to follow up on the Programme of Action as a means of assessing overall implementation efforts, including implementation challenges and opportunities, and which could greatly facilitate the rendering of international cooperation and assistance to affected States,

Noting that tools developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, including the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and those developed by Member States could be used to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the coordinated efforts within the United Nations to implement the Programme of Action, including by developing the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which forms an integrated clearing house for international cooperation and assistance for capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons,

Taking into account the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including tackling both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Reiterating that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[174] which includes an overview of the implementation of resolution 65/64,

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[171] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[172] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[173] A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex; see also decision 60/519.

[174] A/66/177.

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Encourages* all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[172] and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

3. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;[175]

4. *Recalls* its endorsement of the report adopted at the fourth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action,[176] and encourages all States to implement, as appropriate, the measures highlighted in the section of the report entitled "The way forward";

5. *Endorses* the report adopted at the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[177] and takes note with appreciation of the Chair's summary of discussions,[178] prepared under his own responsibility, reflecting his interpretation of the main points under discussion;

6. *Decides* that, pursuant to resolution 65/64, the second conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action will be held in New York, from 27 August to 7 September 2012;

7. *Also decides* that the preparatory committee for the review conference will be convened in New York, from 19 to 23 March 2012;

8. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the report of the fourth biennial meeting of States, and, inter alia, through the strengthening of national coordination agencies or bodies and institutional infrastructure;

9. *Encourages* States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,[179] notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument,[180] in advance of the convening of the preparatory committee but, to the extent possible, by the end of 2011, and encourages those States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs[181] and to include therein information, as appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of the measures highlighted in the reports of the third and fourth biennial meetings of States;

10. *Also encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as another tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of these national reports;

11. *Encourages* States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society with the capacity to do so to cooperate with and assist other States, upon request, in the preparation of comprehensive reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action;

12. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Tracing Instrument by, inter alia, including in their national reports the name and contact information of the national points of contact and information on national marking practices used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

13. *Recognizes* the urgent need to maintain and enhance national controls, in accordance with the Programme of Action, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients, taking into account, inter alia, their adverse humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences on the affected States;

14. *Invites* States, at the second review conference, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and, subject to the agenda of the conference to be agreed by the preparatory committee, encourages them to explore ways to strengthen its implementation, including consideration of the possibility of convening a further open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

15. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, that

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[175] See A/62/163 and Corr.1.

[176] See A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, sect. IV, para. 23.

[177] A/CONF.192/MGE/2011/1.

[178] A/66/157, annex.

[179] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV (sect. II, para. 33, of the quoted text).

[180] See A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex, para. 36.

[181] Available from www.poa-iss.org/reporting.

could be distributed, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action;

16. *Encourages* interested States and relevant international and regional organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action;

17. *Emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

18. *Encourages* States to consider ways to enhance cooperation and assistance and to assess their effectiveness in order to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action;

19. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective, and in this regard encourages States to make use, as appropriate, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System;

20. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

21. *Encourages* civil society and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

RESOLUTION 66/48

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[182] by a recorded vote of 117 to 49, with 13 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, China, Georgia, Japan, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan

66/48. Reducing nuclear danger

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that, until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

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[182] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Gabon, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

Emphasizing the need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomaly or other technical malfunctions,

Conscious that limited steps relating to de-alerting and de-targeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in the security policies of nuclear-weapon States would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[183] and by the international community,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*[184] that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Recalling also the call in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[185] to seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and the resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

1. *Calls for* a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of its resolution 65/60 of 8 December 2010;[186]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war,[187] and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[185] to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

RESOLUTION 66/49

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[188] by a recorded vote of 161 to none, with 18 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga,

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[183] Resolution S-10/2.

[184] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

[185] See resolution 55/2.

[186] A/66/132 and Add.1.

[187] See A/56/400, para. 3.

[188] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen

66/49. Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/59 of 2 December 2008 and other relevant resolutions on the question,

Recognizing the abiding concern of all Member States for ensuring respect for the rights and obligations arising from treaties to which they are parties and from other sources of international law,

Convinced that observance by Member States of the Charter of the United Nations and compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements to which they are parties and with other agreed obligations are essential for regional and global peace, security and stability,

Stressing that failure by States parties to comply with such agreements and with other agreed obligations not only adversely affects the security of States parties but also can create security risks for other States relying on the constraints and commitments stipulated in those agreements,

Stressing also that the viability and effectiveness of non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and of other agreed obligations require that those agreements be fully complied with and enforced,

Concerned by non-compliance by some States with their respective obligations,

Noting that verification and compliance, and enforcement in a manner consistent with the Charter, are integrally related,

Recognizing the importance of and support for effective national, regional and international capacities for such verification, compliance and enforcement,

Recognizing also that full compliance by States with all their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations they have undertaken contributes to efforts to prevent the development and proliferation, contrary to international obligations, of weapons of mass destruction, related technologies and means of delivery, as well as to efforts to deny non-State actors access to such capabilities,

1. *Underscores* the contribution that compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations makes to enhancing confidence and to strengthening international security and stability;

2. *Urges* all States to implement and to comply fully with their respective obligations;

3. *Welcomes* efforts by all States to pursue additional areas of cooperation, as appropriate, that can increase confidence in compliance with existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments and reduce the possibility of misinterpretation and misunderstanding;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to encourage and, for those States in a position to do so, to appropriately assist States which request assistance to increase their capacity to implement fully their obligations;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support efforts aimed at the resolution of compliance questions by means consistent with such agreements and with international law;

6. *Welcomes* the role that the United Nations has played and continues to play in restoring the integrity of, and fostering negotiations on, certain arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and in the removal of threats to peace;

7. *Calls upon* all concerned States to take concerted action, in a manner consistent with relevant international law, to encourage, through bilateral and multilateral means, the compliance by all States with their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations, and to hold those not in compliance with such agreements accountable for their non-compliance in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Urges* those States not currently in compliance with their respective obligations and commitments to make the strategic decision to come back into compliance;

9. *Encourages* efforts by all States, the United Nations and other international organizations, pursuant to their respective mandates, to take action, consistent with the Charter, to prevent serious damage to international security and stability arising from non-compliance by States with their existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament obligations;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session an item entitled "Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments".

RESOLUTION 66/50

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[189]

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[189] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

66/50. Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/62 of 8 December 2010,

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evidenced in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

Cognizant of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 28 April 2004,

Recalling the entry into force on 7 July 2007 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,[190]

Recalling also the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material[191] by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005,

Noting the support expressed in the final document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009,[192] for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the likely acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and the need for international cooperation in combating it, and that the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism has been launched jointly by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

Noting further the holding of the Nuclear Security Summit on 12 and 13 April 2010 in Washington, D.C.,

Noting the holding of the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, in New York on 22 September 2011,

Acknowledging the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,[193]

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-fifth regular session,[194]

Taking note also of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in September 2005[195] and the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006,[196]

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 65/62,[197]

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

Emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States to consider early accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;[190]

3. *Urges* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture;

4. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures, including national measures, for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction

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[190] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

[191] Ibid., vol. 1456, No. 24631.

[192] See A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[193] See A/59/361.

[194] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Fifty-fifth Regular Session, 19–23 September 2011* (GC(55)/RES/DEC(2011)).

[195] See resolution 60/1.

[196] Resolution 60/288.

[197] A/66/115 and Add.1.

and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

RESOLUTION 66/51

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70),[198] by a recorded vote of 117 to 45, with 18 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, India, Ireland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

66/51. Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004, 60/70 of 8 December 2005, 61/78 of 6 December 2006, 62/42 of 5 December 2007, 63/46 of 2 December 2008, 64/53 of 2 December 2009 and 65/56 of 8 December 2010 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972[199] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993[200] have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons, and stressing the need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving this goal,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[201] calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reaffirming the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[202] that the

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[198] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

[199] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

[200] Ibid., vol. 1974, No. 33757.

[201] Resolution S-10/2.

[202] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[203]

Stressing the importance of the thirteen steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[204]

Recognizing the important work done at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[205] and affirming its action plan as an impetus to intensify work aimed at beginning negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Reiterating its call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[206]

Taking note of the entry into force of the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in order to achieve further deep cuts in their strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, and stressing that such cuts should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent,

Recalling the entry into force of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Moscow Treaty") between the United States of America and the Russian Federation[207] as a significant step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons, while calling for further irreversible deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals,

Noting the positive statements by nuclear-weapon States of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, while reaffirming the need for urgent concrete actions by nuclear-weapon States to achieve this goal within a specified framework of time, and urging them to take further measures for progress on nuclear disarmament,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[208] and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Mindful of paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement at its Ministerial Meeting, held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009,[209]

Recalling paragraph 112 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009,[210] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention,

Noting the adoption of the programme of work for the 2009 session by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009,[211] after years of stalemate, while regretting that the Conference has not been able to undertake substantive work on its agenda in 2011,

Reaffirming the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, and expressing the need to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure,[212] and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all States,

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[203] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[204] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15.

[205] See *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

[206] See resolution 50/245.

[207] See CD/1674.

[208] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

[209] See A/63/858.

[210] See A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[211] See CD/1864.

Reaffirming also the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[213] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Recalling also the statement on the total elimination of nuclear weapons, adopted by the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011, in which the Non-Aligned Movement reiterated its call for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons, at the earliest possible date,[214]

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

Seized of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. *Recognizes* that the time is now opportune for all the nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of these weapons at the earliest possible time;

2. *Reaffirms* that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;

3. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world, including the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts between the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the nuclear-weapon States, and encourages the nuclear-weapon States in their early signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone;[215]

5. *Recognizes* that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

7. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems, while stressing that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons;

8. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of these weapons within a specified framework of time;

9. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

10. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

11. *Underlines* the importance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to the process of nuclear disarmament and to nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

12. *Also underlines* the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the

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[212] CD/8/Rev.9.

[213] See resolution 55/2.

[214] See A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex V.

[215] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty,[204] and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;[216]

13. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the thirteen practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;[204]

14. *Also calls for* the full implementation of the action plan as set out in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament;[205]

15. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

16. *Calls for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[217] and the mandate contained therein;

17. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to commence as early as possible its substantive work during its 2012 session, on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes into consideration all the real and existing priorities in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years;

18. *Calls for* the conclusion of an international legal instrument or instruments on adequate and unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;

19. *Also calls for* the early entry into force and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;[206]

20. *Expresses its regret* that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to establish an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament early in 2011, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/56;

21. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament early in 2012 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;

22. *Calls for* the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

RESOLUTION 66/52

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/412, para. 70)[218]

66/52. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988[219] and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989,[220] adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,[221]

Taking note of the commitment by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,[222]

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the

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[216] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States", para. 2.

[217] CD/1299.

[218] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by El Salvador, and Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

[219] See A/43/398, annex I.

[220] See A/44/603, annex I.

[221] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17–21 September 1990* (GC(XXXIV)/ RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

[222] A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

Committee on Disarmament,[223] inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996,

Recalling also resolution GC(45)/RES/10 adopted by consensus on 21 September 2001 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-fifth regular session,[224] in which States shipping radioactive materials are invited to provide, as appropriate, assurances to concerned States, upon their request, that the national regulations of the shipping State take into account the Agency's transport regulations and to provide them with relevant information relating to the shipment of such materials; the information provided should in no case be contradictory to the measures of physical security and safety,

Welcoming the adoption at Vienna, on 5 September 1997, of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management,[225] as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security,

Welcoming also the convening by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, held in Vienna from 20 to 24 June 2011, and its outcome, the Declaration of the International Atomic Energy Agency Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety,[226] as well as the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, endorsed by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-fifth regular session,[227]

Noting the convening by the Secretary-General of the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, in New York on 22 September 2011,

Noting with satisfaction that the Joint Convention entered into force on 18 June 2001,

Noting that the first Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was convened in Vienna from 3 to 14 November 2003,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[228]

1. *Takes note* of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to radiological weapons;[229]

2. *Also takes note* of the Declaration of the International Atomic Energy Agency Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety,[226] the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety[227] and the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, convened by the Secretary-General;

3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

6. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

7. *Takes note* of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[230] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

8. *Expresses the hope* that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

9. *Appeals* to all Member States that have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Joint Convention on

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[223] The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[224] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-fifth Regular Session, 17–21 September 2001* (GC(45)/RES/DEC(2001)).

[225] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2153, No. 37605.

[226] Available from www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/2011/infcirc821.pdf.

[227] See International Atomic Energy Agency, document GOV/2011/59-GC(55)/14.

[228] Resolution S-10/2.

[229] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), chap. III, sect. E.

[230] See A/46/390, annex I.

the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management[230] to do so as soon as possible;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

RESOLUTION 66/53

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22)[231]

66/53. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/83 of 8 December 2005, 61/90 of 6 December 2006, 62/50 of 5 December 2007, 63/76 of 2 December 2008, 64/58 of 2 December 2009 and 65/78 of 8 December 2010 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,[232] the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific[233] and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,[234]

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,[235]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities and posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and bearing in mind in this regard that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Recalling that, in paragraph 127 of the Final Document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009,[236] and in paragraph 162 of the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,[237] the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries emphasized the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to advance disarmament and to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security and that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions in order to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the activities of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

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[231] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[232] A/66/159.

[233] A/66/113.

[234] A/66/140.

[235] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[236] A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[237] A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I.

RESOLUTION 66/54

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22)[238]

66/54. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 F of 4 December 1998, 54/55 F of 1 December 1999, 55/34 E of 20 November 2000, 56/25 E of 29 November 2001, 57/89 of 22 November 2002, 58/60 of 8 December 2003, 59/99 of 3 December 2004, 60/84 of 8 December 2005, 61/92 of 6 December 2006, 62/49 of 5 December 2007, 63/74 of 2 December 2008, 64/60 of 2 December 2009 and 65/79 of 8 December 2010,

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional and subregional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[239] and expressing its appreciation for the important assistance provided by the Regional Centre to many countries in the region, including through capacity-building and technical assistance programmes as well as outreach activities, for the development of plans to reduce and prevent armed violence from an arms control perspective, for promoting the implementation of relevant agreements and treaties and for capacity-building initiatives aimed at bolstering the efforts of the law enforcement community to combat illicit firearms trafficking,

Welcoming the support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments,

Emphasizing the need for the Regional Centre to develop and strengthen its activities and programmes in a comprehensive and balanced manner, in accordance with its mandate,

Welcoming the ongoing support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[240]

Welcoming also the initiative of the Regional Centre to conduct its first course specifically for women, in line with efforts to implement gender mainstreaming in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as called for in General Assembly resolution 65/69 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development, referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004,[241] which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the support provided by the Regional Centre for strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),[242] and its efforts in promoting peace and disarmament education,

Bearing in mind the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Bearing in mind also the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

1. *Reiterates its strong support* for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its member States;

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[238] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Peru (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).

[239] A/66/140.

[240] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[241] See A/59/119.

[242] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* for the activities carried out in the past year by the Regional Centre, and requests the Centre to continue to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region for the promotion of, inter alia, confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, the reduction and prevention of armed violence, disarmament and development at the regional and subregional levels;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support for and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to make and to increase voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

5. *Invites* all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme of activities and making greater and better use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community, with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

6. *Recognizes* that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional and subregional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as in the relationship between disarmament and development;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

RESOLUTION 66/55

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22)[243]

66/55. Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 65/84 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

Taking note of the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 16 March 2011 at their thirty-second ministerial meeting, held in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011,[244]

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[245] the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa[246] and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,[247]

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[243] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

[244] See A/66/72-S/2011/225, annex.

[245] A/50/474, annex I.

[246] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

[247] A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[248]

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and welcoming the close cooperation established between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States for that purpose,

Taking note with interest of the increasing focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention,

Expressing concern about the increasing impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army and increasing incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, on peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Considering the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons and mercenaries from the conflict in Libya into the neighbouring countries in the Central African region,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

3. *Renews its encouragement* to the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and other interested States to provide financial support for the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), adopted on 30 April 2010, at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Kinshasa from 26 to 30 April 2010;[249]

4. *Welcomes* the adoption by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty,[244] encourages the Committee to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the steps identified in the Declaration, towards the continued active participation of its member States in the process for the arms trade treaty, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and international partners to support those measures;

5. *Also welcomes* the active participation of experts of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in the open-ended meeting of governmental experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 13 May 2011;

6. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings;

7. *Also encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to render the early warning mechanism for Central Africa fully operational as an instrument for analysing and monitoring the political situation in the subregion within the framework of the prevention of crises and armed conflicts, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the assistance necessary for its smooth functioning;

8. *Welcomes* the signing of the Kinshasa Convention by all eleven States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, and appeals to them to ratify the Convention in a timely manner in order to facilitate its early entry into force and implementation;

9. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention, as adopted on 19 November 2010 at their thirty-first ministerial meeting, held in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010;[250]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

13. *Reminds* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments they undertook at the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United

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[248] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

[249] See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

[250] See A/65/717-S/2011/53, annex.

Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration) on 8 May 2009,[251] and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the Trust Fund;

14. *Urges* other Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

15. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security;

16. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the effective inauguration of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in Libreville, welcomes the efforts made by the Office since its opening, and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including the fallout from the situation in Libya, and welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

18. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

RESOLUTION 66/56

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22)[252]

66/56. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/52 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[253] and expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its important work in promoting confidence-building measures through the organization of meetings, conferences and workshops in the region, including conferences held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 2 and 3 December 2010 and in Matsumoto, Japan, from 27 to 29 July 2011, a regional workshop on strengthening the media's capacity in promoting disarmament held in Beijing on 20 and 21 January 2011 and a regional seminar on armed violence prevention held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 March 2011,

Appreciating the timely execution by Nepal of its financial commitments for the physical operation of the Regional Centre,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* for the activities carried out in the past year by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and invites all States of the region to continue to support the activities of the Centre, including by continuing to take part in them, where possible, and by proposing items for inclusion in the programme of activities of the Centre, in order to contribute to the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Nepal for its cooperation and financial support, which has enabled the Regional Centre to operate from Kathmandu;

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[251] See A/64/85-S/2009/288, annex.

[252] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Congo, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

[253] A/66/113.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for providing necessary support with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu and to enabling the Centre to function effectively;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Centre and the implementation thereof;

5. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States;

6. *Underlines* the importance of the Kathmandu process for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogues;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

RESOLUTION 66/57

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22),[254] by a recorded vote of 117 to 48, with 12 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Armenia, Belarus, El Salvador, Georgia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

66/57. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[255]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[256] states that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

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[254] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

[255] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

[256] Resolution S-10/2.

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2011 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 65/80 of 8 December 2010,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

RESOLUTION 66/58

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/413, para. 22)[257]

66/58. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 C of 4 December 1998, 54/55 B of 1 December 1999, 55/34 D of 20 November 2000, 56/25 D of 29 November 2001, 57/91 of 22 November 2002, 58/61 of 8 December 2003, 59/101 of 3 December 2004, 60/86 of 8 December 2005, 61/93 of 6 December 2006, 62/216 of 22 December 2007, 63/80 of 2 December 2008 and 64/62 of 2 December 2009,

Reaffirming the role of the Regional Centre in promoting disarmament, peace and security at the regional level,

Welcoming the continuing and deepening cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular its institutions in the fields of disarmament, peace and security, as well as between the Centre and relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in Africa, and considering the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its two-hundredth meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 21 August 2009,

Recalling the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,[258] in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations,

Recalling also the call by the Secretary-General for continued financial and in kind support from Member States,[259] which would enable the Regional Centre to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[260]

2. *Welcomes* the continental dimension of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in response to the evolving needs of African Member States in the areas of disarmament, peace and security;

3. *Also welcomes* the undertaking by the Regional Centre to provide capacity-building, technical assistance programmes and advisory services to the African Union Commission and subregional organizations on the control of small arms and light weapons, including on stockpile management and destruction, the proposed arms trade treaty and issues related to weapons of mass destruction, as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Further welcomes* the contribution of the Regional Centre to continental disarmament, peace and security, in

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[257] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

[258] A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.263 (VIII).

[259] See A/66/159, para. 58.

[260] A/66/159.

particular its assistance to the African Union Commission in the elaboration of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the ongoing process of seeking an African common position on the proposed arms trade treaty, and to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in its implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[261]

5. *Notes with appreciation* the tangible achievements and impact of the Regional Centre at the regional level, including its assistance to Central African States in their elaboration of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention),[262] to Central and West African States in the elaboration of their respective common positions on the proposed arms trade treaty, to West Africa on security sector reform initiatives, and to East Africa on programmes to control brokering of small arms and light weapons;

6. *Also notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Regional Centre to the "One United Nations" approach and to United Nations inter-agency mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the common country assessments and the poverty reduction strategy papers, in a number of African countries;

7. *Urges* all States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to enable the Regional Centre to carry out its programmes and activities and meet the needs of the African States;

8. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum in January 2006;[258]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of disarmament, peace and security;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for greater achievements and results;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

RESOLUTION 66/59

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/414, para. 11)[263]

66/59. Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[264]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the addresses of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Noting the follow-up discussions to the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations, held on 24 September 2010 at the initiative of the Secretary-General, and acknowledging the continued support for the Conference expressed by high-level officials in 2011,

Noting with renewed concern that the Conference on Disarmament has been unable to commence its substantive work, including negotiations, for over a decade, as envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/85 of 8 December 2010, or to agree on a programme of work,

Welcoming the renewed overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

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[261] See A/50/426, annex.

[262] See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

[263] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: China, Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

[264] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/66/27).

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2011 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made during the 2011 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Welcoming the enhanced engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament at its 2011 session according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2012 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2012 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009;[265]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament during its 2011 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, in its 2012 session;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

RESOLUTION 66/60

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/414, para. 11)[266]

66/60. Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[267]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009 and 65/86 of 8 December 2010,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[267]

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[265] CD/1864.

[266] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Iraq (on behalf of the members of the extended Bureau of the Disarmament Commission).

[267] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/66/42).

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, in which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[268] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[269]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the items on its agenda, in accordance with decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2012;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2012, namely from 2 to 20 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[270] together with all the official records of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

RESOLUTION 66/61

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/415, para. 8),[271] by a recorded vote of 167 to 6, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Panama

66/61. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy

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[268] Resolution S-10/2.

[269] A/CN.10/137.

[270] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/66/27).

[271] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(55)/RES/14, adopted on 23 September 2011,[272]

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the Agency,

Recalling the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[273] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty[274] as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Recognizing with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[275] the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on 11 May 1995,[273] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards,

Noting with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[276] the Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and decided, inter alia, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Emphasizing the need for all parties directly concerned to seriously consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, inviting the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-two States have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[277] including a number of States in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[278]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[274] and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;

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[272] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Fifty-fifth Regular Session, 19–23 September 2011* (GC(55)/RES/DEC(2011)).

[273] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[274] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[275] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I–IV)).

[276] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I–III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I–III)).

[277] See resolution 50/245.

[278] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*, sect. IV.

3. *Calls upon* that State to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

RESOLUTION 66/62

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/416, para. 8)[279]

66/62. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/89 of 8 December 2010,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and the entry into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[280] and its amended article 1,[281] the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[280] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[280] and its amended version,[282] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[280] the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[283] and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),[284]

Welcoming the results of the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006,

Welcoming also the results of the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva on 25 and 26 November 2010,

Welcoming further the results of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 24 November 2010,

Welcoming the results of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva on 22 and 23 November 2010,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[280] and the Protocols thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);[284]

4. *Welcomes* the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;

5. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention of a plan of action to promote universality of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,[285] and expresses appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Chair of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the President of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the President of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;

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[279] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Bulgaria and Sweden.

[280] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

[281] Ibid., vol. 2260, No. 22495.

[282] Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.

[283] Ibid., vol. 2024, No. 22495.

[284] Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.

[285] See CCW/CONF.III/11 (Part II), annex III.

6. *Recalls* the decision of the Third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to establish a sponsorship programme within the framework of the Convention,[286] and, with recognition of the value and importance of the programme, encourages States to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to convene the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention in Geneva from 14 to 25 November 2011;

8. *Acknowledges* the work of the Implementation Support Unit within the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which was established following a decision of the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment by States parties to continue to address the humanitarian problems caused by certain specific types of munitions in all their aspects, including cluster munitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian impact of these munitions;

10. *Also welcomes* the preparatory work for the Fourth Review Conference conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, acting under the overall responsibility of the President-designate, and notes that the issue of urgently addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, will be further addressed at the Fourth Review Conference in November 2011;

11. *Further welcomes* the commitment of States parties to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the implementation of the decisions of the First and Second Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol establishing a comprehensive framework for the exchange of information and cooperation,[287] and also welcomes the holding of the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol, in Geneva from 6 to 8 April 2011, as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation among the States parties;

12. *Notes* the decision of the Tenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to establish an informal open-ended group of experts,[288] and welcomes the holding of the third session of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, in Geneva on 4 and 5 April 2011, to exchange national practices and experiences and to assess the implementation of the Protocol;

13. *Also notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held from 14 to 25 November 2011, and other annual conferences and expert meetings of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as for any continuation of the work after the meetings;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1[281] and the Protocols thereto;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

RESOLUTION 66/63

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/417, para. 7)[289]

66/63. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 65/90 of 8 December 2010,

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[286] Ibid., annex IV.

[287] See CCW/P.V/CONF/2007/1 and Corr.1 and 2 and CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/12.

[288] See CCW/AP.II/CONF.10/2, para. 23.

[289] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Welcoming the efforts deployed by the Euro-Mediterranean countries to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, in particular through the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recalling, in this regard, the adoption on 13 July 2008 of the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched a reinforced partnership, named the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", and the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity,

Welcoming the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[290] as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, as well as their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[291]

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[292]

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament

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[290] See A/50/426, annex.

[291] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[292] A/66/122.

and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the conditions necessary for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;[293]

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

RESOLUTION 66/64

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/418, para. 7),[294] by a recorded vote of 175 to 1, with 3 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Abstaining: India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic

66/64. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and that, after more than fifteen years, its entry into force is more urgent than ever before,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and eighty-two States, including forty-one of the forty-four whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by one hundred and fifty-five States, including thirty-five of the forty-four whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

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[293] See resolution 46/36 L.

[294] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Recalling its resolution 65/91 of 8 December 2010,

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[295] which, inter alia, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

Welcoming also the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted at the ministerial meeting held in New York on 23 September 2010,[296]

Recalling the Final Declaration adopted by the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 23 September 2011,[297] convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and noting the improved prospects for ratification in several Annex 2 countries,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;[298]

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) of 14 October 2006 and 1874 (2009) of 12 June 2009, emphasizes the importance of their implementation, and reaffirms its firm support for the Six-Party Talks;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

7. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. *Welcomes*, since its previous resolution on the subject, the ratification of the Treaty by Ghana and Guinea as a significant step towards the early entry into force of the Treaty;

9. *Also welcomes* the recent expressions by a number of the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

10. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it, and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

RESOLUTION 66/65

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/419, para. 8)[299]

66/65. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and sixty-five States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological

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[295] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

[296] A/65/675, annex.

[297] CTBT-Art.XIV/2011/6, annex.

[298] See resolution 50/245.

[299] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Hungary.

(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[300] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the review conferences of the parties to the Convention, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[301] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,[302]

Recalling the decision reached at the Sixth Review Conference to hold four annual meetings of the States parties of one week's duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, which is to be held no later than the end of 2011, and to hold a one-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,[303]

1. *Notes with appreciation* that two additional States have acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[300] reaffirms its call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, as well as the several measures to update the mechanism for the transmission of information in the framework of confidence-building measures agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed upon at the Third Review Conference;[301]

3. *Recalls* the decisions on all provisions of the Convention reached at the Sixth Review Conference,[303] and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate in their implementation;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Implementation Support Unit within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat during the 2007–2010 intersessional process consistent with its mandate and in accordance with the decisions of the Sixth Review Conference;

5. *Welcomes* the successful holding of meetings as part of the 2007–2010 intersessional process, and in this context also welcomes the discussion aimed at the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference;

6. *Notes* the success of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference, held in Geneva from 13 to 15 April 2011, and welcomes the convening of the Seventh Review Conference in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011 pursuant to the decision of the Preparatory Committee;

7. *Recalls* that the Seventh Review Conference is mandated to consider issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in article XII thereof and any possible consensus follow-up action;

8. *Urges* all States parties to continue to work together to achieve a consensus outcome of the Seventh Review Conference which strengthens the Convention;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the events organized by some States parties for exchanges of views on the work of the Seventh Review Conference;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Seventh Review Conference;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

RESOLUTION 66/66

Adopted at the 71st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/420, para. 11)[304]

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[300] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

[301] See BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

[302] See BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

[303] See BWC/CONF.VI/6, part III.

[304] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

66/66. Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/93 of 8 December 2010,

Reaffirming the importance of disarmament in strengthening global security and promoting international stability,

Recognizing that the political will to advance the disarmament agenda has been strengthened in recent years and that the international political climate is conducive to the promotion of multilateral disarmament and moving towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons,

Affirming the importance of multilateralism in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Mindful of the continuing importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as stated during the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Recalling the past achievements of the Conference on Disarmament in successfully negotiating arms control and disarmament instruments,

Reiterating its grave concern about the current status of the disarmament machinery, including the lack of substantive progress in the Conference on Disarmament for more than a decade, and stressing the need for greater efforts and flexibility to advance multilateral disarmament negotiations,

Welcoming the efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament and the support of the Secretary-General for such efforts, and recalling the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in New York on 24 September 2010, and the follow-up plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held from 27 to 29 July 2011,

Noting with concern that, despite all efforts, the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to adopt and implement a programme of work during its 2011 session,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

Mindful of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 11 of Chapter IV concerning the functions and powers of the General Assembly in respect of disarmament,

1. *Welcomes* the opportunity provided by the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, convened at the initiative of the Secretary-General in New York on 24 September 2010, and the follow-up plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held from 27 to 29 July 2011, to address the need to advance multilateral disarmament efforts;

2. *Expresses appreciation* for the support voiced for the urgent need to revitalize the work of multilateral disarmament bodies and to advance multilateral disarmament negotiations;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continuing efforts and suggestions made by Member States and the Secretary-General with regard to revitalizing the multilateral disarmament machinery;

4. *Calls upon* States to intensify efforts aimed at creating an environment conducive to multilateral disarmament negotiations;

5. *Invites* States, in the appropriate forums, to explore, consider and consolidate options, proposals and elements for revitalization of the United Nations disarmament machinery as a whole, including the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to adopt and implement a programme of work to enable it to resume substantive work on its agenda early in its 2012 session;

7. *Recognizes* the need to take stock, during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, of all relevant efforts to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", to review progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and, if necessary, to further explore options for taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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RESOLUTION 66/69

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/423, para. 8)[1]

66/69. Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/84 of 10 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recalling also all relevant treaties and conventions[2] and their review processes,

Noting with appreciation the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action has been commemorated worldwide,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war,[3] which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of countries affected by them,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and explosive remnants of war pose to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and mine-clearance programmes and operations,

Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year as well as the presence of a decreasing but still very large number of, and area of square kilometres infested by, mines and explosive remnants of war as a result of armed conflicts, and therefore remaining convinced of the necessity and urgency of strengthening mine-action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war to civilians as soon as possible,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has a significant role to play in the field of assistance in mine action through the United Nations Mine Action Team,[4] including the United Nations Mine Action Service, and considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities, as well as noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Noting with appreciation the enhanced cooperation of the United Nations Mine Action Team with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders through meetings of the Committee on Mine Action,[5] and progress in active involvement in the humanitarian coordination mechanism,

Recognizing the valuable mine-action efforts of national and international mine-action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, enabling local communities to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

Stressing the pressing need to urge non-State actors to halt immediately and unconditionally new deployments of mines, improvised explosive devices and other associated explosive devices,

Noting the ongoing efforts to develop a new United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for the period 2011–2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action;[6]

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[1] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[2] These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 1977; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

[3] As defined by Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

[4] Consisting of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

[5] The Committee on Mine Action is an informal information-sharing forum. The members are United Nations Mine Action Team members, non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and academic institutions.

[6] A/66/292.

2. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, as appropriate, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels;

3. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States and territories, as appropriate, by providing:

(*a*) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities, including, where appropriate, in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries;

(*b*) Support for national programmes, where appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men;

(*c*) Reliable, predictable and timely contributions for mine-action activities, including through national mine-action efforts and mine-action programmes of non-governmental organizations, including those relating to victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

(*d*) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps, other devices and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(*e*) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war; and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine-action techniques and technology that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

4. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine-action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) or IMAS-compliant national standards, and emphasizes the importance of using an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help facilitate mine-action activities;

5. *Urges* all mine-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and other explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

6. *Encourages* mine-affected States, with support from relevant development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action and victim assistance requirements into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action is predictably funded;

7. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities;

8. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine-action programmes are gender- and age-sensitive, so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders in the programming of mine action;

9. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action, and emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations and other relevant organizations in that regard, and looks forward to the imminent completion of the evaluation by the Joint Inspection Unit of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action, as requested in its resolution 64/84;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, when appropriate, in ceasefire and peace agreements in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, including on relevant United Nations policies and activities as well as in regard to the evaluation by the Joint Inspection Unit of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

RESOLUTION 66/70

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/424, para. 8)[7]

66/70. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment, and conscious also of the increased volume, complexity and diversity of that information,

Acknowledging the concerns about the radiological consequences of an accident which were raised by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan,

Recalling the twenty-fifth anniversary of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl,

Recalling also the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security convened in New York on 22 September 2011,

Recalling further that the Secretary-General invited the General Assembly to provide the Scientific Committee with the necessary capacity and resources to accomplish its tasks,[8]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Scientific Committee,

Emphasizing the vital need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding, as well as efficient management, of the work of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to arrange the annual sessions and coordinate the development of documents based on scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment,

Recalling the tenth preambular paragraph of its resolution 65/96 of 10 December 2010, and noting with appreciation that the new P-4 post for the secretariat of the Scientific Committee has been filled,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and the need to carry out unforeseen additional work in cases such as the nuclear accident in Japan,

Recognizing also the importance of voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the Scientific Committee,

Considering that the high quality of the work of the Scientific Committee needs to be maintained in the future,

Recognizing the importance of disseminating results from the work of the Scientific Committee and widely publicizing scientific knowledge about atomic radiation, and recalling, in that context, principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[9]

Acknowledging that Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine had informed the President of the General Assembly before 28 February 2007, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Assembly resolution 61/109 of 14 December 2006, of their desire to become members of the Scientific Committee,

Welcoming the attendance of Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine as observers at the fifty-sixth, fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Scientific Committee,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Scientific Committee and notes the report on its fifty-eighth session;[10]

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[7] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[8] See A/C.4/66/8, annex, para. 27 (*b*).

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/66/46).

4. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

5. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for conducting its programme of work of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, in particular its decision to conduct a full assessment of the levels of exposure and radiation risks attributable to the accident following the great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami, calls upon the Scientific Committee to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session the report requested by the Assembly on the attributability of health effects from radiation exposure,[11] encourages the Scientific Committee at its earliest convenience to submit the other related reports, including on assessments of levels of ionizing radiation from electrical energy production, as well as on the effects on human health and the environment, and requests the Scientific Committee to submit plans for its ongoing and future programme of work to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to facilitate the timely publication of the reports of the Scientific Committee, inter alia, by continuing to streamline internal procedures as necessary, and to strive to publish the reports within the same calendar year as their approval;

7. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States;

8. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate such consultations;

9. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

10. *Also welcomes* the strategy of the Scientific Committee to improve data collection, encourages in this regard Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly, and further encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations to establish and coordinate with the Secretariat the arrangements for periodic collection and exchange of data on radiation exposures of workers, the general public, and, in particular, medical patients;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen, as appropriate, support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to strengthen the funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/96;

13. *Encourages* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and also to make contributions in kind in order to support the work of the Scientific Committee;

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the effects of atomic radiation in the Marshall Islands;[12]

15. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the objective criteria and indicators to determine membership that would best support the essential work of the Scientific Committee and the financial implications of increased membership;[13]

16. *Decides* to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee from twenty-one to twenty-seven States, on the understanding that the increase in membership can be achieved from within existing resources for the biennium 2012–2013, and requests the Secretariat and Member States to use the budget and the meeting time allocated to the work of the Scientific Committee in the most efficient manner in order to best avoid additional budgetary implications of the increased membership in the future;

17. *Invites* Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine to become members of the Scientific Committee, and requests the Government of each of those States to designate one scientist, with alternates and consultants, as appropriate, to be its representative in the Committee;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the experience of the increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee to twenty-seven States regarding its effectiveness, quality of work

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[11] See resolution 62/100, para. 6.

[12] A/66/378.

[13] A/66/524.

and equitable geographical distribution, as well as on options for further increase procedures;

19. *Decides* to next consider reviewing the possible increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee at its seventy-second session, taking into account new expressions of interest in membership received by the Secretary-General between the sixty-sixth and seventy-second sessions of the General Assembly, all previous resolutions of the Assembly and, as appropriate, all relevant reports of the Secretary-General on the Scientific Committee as well as the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the need to ensure the effectiveness and the quality of work of the Scientific Committee, with a view to establishing a procedure at the seventy-third session for the possible further increase in the membership, and requests the Secretary-General to duly inform all Member States about this procedure.

RESOLUTION 66/71

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/425, para. 11)[14]

66/71. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010 and 65/271 of 7 April 2011,

Recognizing the extraordinary achievements made over the past fifty years in human space flight and space exploration for peaceful purposes, and recalling the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies[15] (Outer Space Treaty),

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recognizing also that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[16]

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,[17]

Desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Deeply convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telehealth, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other Earth observation applications contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

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[14] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Romania (on behalf of the Working Group of the Whole on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space).

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[16] See resolution 55/2.

[17] The term "disasters" refers to natural or technological disasters.

Taking note, in that regard, of the fact that the 2005 World Summit recognized the important role that science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,[18]

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-fourth session,[19]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-fourth session;[19]

2. *Agrees* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-fifth session, should consider the substantive items recommended by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session,[20] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Notes* that, at its fiftieth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work,[21] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/97;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[22] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[23] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their domestic law, as well as incorporating them in their national legislation;

6. *Notes* that, at its forty-eighth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work,[24] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/97;

7. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[25] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

8. *Notes with appreciation* that some States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[26] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217;

9. *Invites* other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;[26]

10. *Considers* that it is essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

11. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

12. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2012, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications and endorsed by the Committee;[27]

13. *Welcomes* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite

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[18] See resolution 60/1, para. 60.

[19] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20).

[20] Ibid., para. 304.

[21] Ibid., chap. II.D; and A/AC.105/990.

[22] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), paras. 215–218.

[23] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

[24] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), chap. II.C; and A/AC.105/987.

[25] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), paras. 164–167.

[26] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), paras. 117 and 118, and annex.

[27] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), para. 80; and A/AC.105/980, sects. II and III, and annex III.

Systems towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with satisfaction that the International Committee held its sixth meeting in Tokyo from 5 to 9 September 2011;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in the implementation of the workplan of the UN-SPIDER programme for the biennium 2010–2011,[28] and encourages Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, the programme with the necessary additional resources to ensure that greater support could be provided to Member States by UN-SPIDER and its regional support offices;

15. *Notes with appreciation* that the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, as well as the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, affiliated to the United Nations, have continued their education programmes in 2011, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on their activities;

16. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[16] and to that end requests relevant regional organizations to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out recommendations of regional conferences;

17. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the important role played by conferences and other mechanisms in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the Space Conference of the Americas;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas was hosted by the Government of Mexico and held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, welcomes the adoption of the Pachuca Declaration, and also notes with satisfaction that the Government of Mexico has assumed the pro tempore secretariat of the Conference for the period 2011–2013; that the fourth meeting of the Council of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization was held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 26 and 27 January 2011; that the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development was hosted by the Government of Kenya and held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 26 to 28 September 2011; and that the eighteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum will be jointly organized by the Singapore Space and Technology Association, the National University of Singapore and the Government of Japan and held in Singapore from 6 to 9 December 2011;

19. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, and agrees that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

20. *Recognizes* that space science and technology and their applications make important contributions to economic, social and cultural development and welfare, as indicated in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[29] and its resolution 59/2, and notes with satisfaction that a number of the recommendations set out in the Plan of Action of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)[30] have been implemented and that satisfactory progress is being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations through national and regional activities;

21. *Urges* all Member States to continue to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to enhance the capacity of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to provide technical and legal advisory services in accordance with the Plan of Action, while maintaining the priority thematic areas agreed by the Committee;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

23. *Reiterates* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should continue to be brought to the attention, in particular, of the major United Nations conferences and

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[28] See A/AC.105/937.

[29] See *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19–30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

[30] See A/59/174, sect. VI.B.

summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and for implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

24. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to strengthen further the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and urges entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting, to continue to examine, in cooperation with the Committee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration on the development agenda, particularly in the areas relating to, inter alia, food security and increasing opportunities for education;

25. *Calls upon* the United Nations University and other institutions of the same nature, within the framework of their mandates, to provide training and to carry out research in the areas of international space law and, in particular, matters relating to disasters and emergencies;

26. *Agrees* that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies at their respective sessions in 2012 should elect their officers nominated for the period 2012–2013;[31]

27. *Decides* that Azerbaijan shall become a member of the Committee;[32]

28. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World;[33]

29. *Notes* that each of the regional groups has the responsibility for actively promoting the participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups, and agrees that the regional groups should consider this Committee-related matter among their members;

30. *Notes with satisfaction* that a panel discussion was held at United Nations Headquarters on 11 October 2011 on the topic of the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[34] to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, with attention given to the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development and taking into account the previous panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health and emergencies;

31. *Invites* the Group on Earth Observations to contribute to the preparatory process for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by addressing issues related to the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development;

32. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system, other international organizations and the Secretary-General to continue and, where appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with reports on the issues dealt with in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and to address the issues covered by the panel discussions held in conjunction with sessions of the General Assembly;

33. *Recalls* the fact that the General Assembly, by its resolution 65/271, declared 12 April the International Day of Human Space Flight;

34. *Notes with satisfaction* the commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna on 1 June 2011;[35]

35. *Adopts* the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

We, the States Members of the United Nations, in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

1. *Recall* the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957, thus opening the way for space exploration;

2. *Also recall* that, on 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space;

3. *Further recall* the amazing history of human presence in outer space and the remarkable achievements since the first human spaceflight, in particular Valentina Tereshkova becoming the first woman to orbit the Earth on 16 June 1963, Neil Armstrong becoming the first human to set foot upon the surface of the Moon on 20 July 1969, and the docking of the Apollo and Soyuz spacecrafts on 17 July 1975, being the first

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[31] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), para. 286.

[32] Ibid., para. 290.

[33] Ibid., para. 292.

[34] See A/AC.105/993.

[35] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), annex I.

international human mission in space, and recall that for the past decade humanity has maintained a multinational permanent human presence in outer space aboard the International Space Station;

4. *Respectfully recall* that the human exploration of outer space has not been without sacrifice, and remember the men and women who have lost their lives in the pursuit of expanding humanity's frontiers;

5. *Emphasize* the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made over the past fifty years in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities;

6. *Recall* the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies[15] (Outer Space Treaty) on 10 October 1967, which establishes the fundamental principles of international space law;

7. *Also recall* the first meeting of the permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, convened on 27 November 1961, which facilitated the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 1721 A to E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, including resolution 1721 A (XVI), in which the first legal principles were commended to States for their guidance in space activities, and resolution 1721 B (XVI), in which the Assembly expressed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space;

8. *Recognize* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, has for the past fifty years served as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities and that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies stand at the forefront in bringing the world together in using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment and ensure the future of human civilization;

9. *Acknowledge* that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of the space endeavour, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of actors at all levels, and therefore note with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by enhancing the capacity of States for economic, social and cultural development and by strengthening the regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect;

10. *Reaffirm* the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law, and of the widest possible adherence to the international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space;

11. *Express our firm conviction* that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, to improve people's lives, to conserve natural resources and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters;

12. *Express our deep concern* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris;

13. *Stress* the need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting challenges, including that of global climate change, and to food security and global health, and endeavour to examine how the outcomes and spin-offs of scientific research in human space flight could increase the benefits, in particular for developing countries;

14. *Emphasize* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[16]

15. *Confirm* the need for closer coordination between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the United Nations, including with respect to the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development;

16. *Call upon* all States to take measures at the national, regional, interregional and global levels to engage in the common efforts to use space science and technology and their applications to preserve planet Earth and its space environment for future generations.

RESOLUTION 66/72

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/426, para. 16),[36] by a recorded vote of 160 to 1, with 8 abstentions, as follows:

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[36] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America, Vanuatu

66/72. Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 65/98 of 10 December 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the fact that, for more than six decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Affirming the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

Acknowledging the essential role that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has played for over sixty years since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,[37]

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

Expressing grave concern in particular at the critical humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[38] on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and reiterates its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2012;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services for the well-being and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

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[37] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/66/13); and ibid., *Supplement No. 13A* (A/66/13/Add.1).

[38] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, including with regard to increased expenditures arising from the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation and instability in the region, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those mentioned in recent emergency appeals;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate;

6. *Decides* to invite Luxembourg, in accordance with the criterion set forth in General Assembly decision 60/522 of 8 December 2005, to become a member of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

RESOLUTION 66/73

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/426, para. 16),[39] by a recorded vote of 163 to 7, with 3 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Panama, Vanuatu

66/73. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 65/99 of 10 December 2010,[40]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,[41]

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[42] with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Stresses* the necessity for an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calls for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[42] on the return of displaced persons;

3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to

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[39] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

[40] A/66/222.

[41] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/66/13); and ibid., *Supplement No. 13A* (A/66/13/Add.1).

[42] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its sixty-seventh session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/74

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/426, para. 16),[43] by a recorded vote of 165 to 7, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu

66/74. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 65/100 of 10 December 2010,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,[44]

Taking note of the letter dated 22 June 2011 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to the Commissioner-General,[45]

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency, caused in part by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as its rising expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency-related and development programmes,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[46]

Recalling also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[47]

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[48] to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

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[43] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

[44] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/66/13); and ibid., *Supplement No. 13A* (A/66/13/Add.1).

[45] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/66/13), pp. vi and vii.

[46] Resolution 22 A (I).

[47] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

[48] Ibid., vol. 75, No. 973.

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Gravely concerned about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees,

Gravely concerned also about the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women; widespread destruction and damage to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities; and internal displacement of civilians, including refugees,

Commending the extraordinary efforts by the Agency to provide emergency relief, medical, food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance to needy and displaced families in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009,

Expressing regret over the continued restrictions that impede the Agency's efforts to repair and rebuild thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and calling upon Israel to ensure the unimpeded import of essential construction materials into the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access there,

Expressing concern about the severe classroom shortage in the Gaza Strip and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children as a result of the constraints on the ability of the Agency to construct new schools due to Israel's ongoing restrictions impeding the entry of necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the urgent need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including through the completion of suspended projects managed by the Agency, and for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities,

Urging the continuing disbursement of pledges made at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009, to accelerate the reconstruction process,

Noting with appreciation the completion of the first phase of the project to rebuild the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, commending the Government of Lebanon, donors, the Agency and other concerned parties for the important progress made and for the continuing efforts to assist affected and displaced refugees, and emphasizing the need for additional funding to complete the reconstruction of the camp and end the displacement of its twenty-seven thousand residents without delay,

Aware of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Deploring the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency, including damage caused to the Agency's "Summer Games" recreational properties, during the reporting period,

Deploring also, in particular, the extensive damage and destruction of Agency facilities in the Gaza Strip caused during the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, including schools where civilians were sheltered and the Agency's main compound and warehouse, as reported in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[49] and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[50]

Deploring further, in this regard, the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference and the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property,

Deploring the killing and injury of Agency staff members by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since September 2000,

Deploring also the killing and wounding of refugee children in the Agency schools by the Israeli occupying forces during the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009,

Deeply concerned about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

Aware of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

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[49] See A/63/855-S/2009/250.

[50] A/HRC/12/48.

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[51]

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all of the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions and unstable circumstances faced during the past year;

3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for over sixty years since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East[52] and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;

7. *Commends* the Agency's six-year Medium-Term Strategy, which commenced in January 2010, and the continuing efforts of the Commissioner-General to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;[53]

8. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its reform efforts, and urges it to continue to apply maximum efficiency procedures to reduce operational and administrative costs and to maximize the use of resources;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[54] and further urges all Member States to carefully consider its proposal for support by the Secretary-General of the institutional strengthening of the Agency through the provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations;

10. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

11. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the fulfilment of pledges made at the International Donor Conference for the Recovery and Reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared Palestine Refugee Camp and Conflict-affected Areas of Northern Lebanon, held in Vienna on 23 June 2008;

12. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue making progress in addressing the needs and rights of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[55] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[56] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[57] respectively;

13. *Commends*, in this regard, the Agency's "Summer Games" initiative providing recreational, cultural and educational activities for children in the Gaza Strip and, recognizing its positive contribution, calls for full support of the initiative;

14. *Expresses concern* about the relocation of the international staff of the Agency from its headquarters in Gaza City and the disruption of operations at the headquarters due to the deterioration and instability of the situation on the ground;

15. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[48]

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[51] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/49/13), annex I.

[52] A/66/520.

[53] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13A* (A/66/13/Add.1).

[54] A/65/705.

[55] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[56] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[57] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

16. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations[46] in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

17. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

18. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease the levying of taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

19. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, while noting the commencement of several projects in this regard;

20. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the Agency in the modernization of its archives through the Palestine Refugee Records Project, including the completion of phase I, and encourages the Commissioner-General to finalize the remaining components of the Project as rapidly as possible and to report on the progress made to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

22. *Also notes with appreciation* the success of the Agency's microfinance programme, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

23. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the Agency and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

24. *Urges* all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency in order to address the serious financial constraints and underfunding, especially with respect to the Agency's regular budget deficit, noting that financial shortfalls have been exacerbated by the current humanitarian situation on the ground that has resulted in rising expenditures, in particular with regard to emergency services, and to support the Agency's valuable and necessary work in assisting the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation.

RESOLUTION 66/75

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/426, para. 16),[58] by a recorded vote of 165 to 7, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu

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[58] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

66/75. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 65/101 of 10 December 2010,[59] as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011,[60]

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[61] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

Noting the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,[62] and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Expressing its appreciation for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution 194 (III),

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,[63] to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;

3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/76

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/427, para. 18),[64] by a recorded vote of 86 to 9, with 75 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,

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[59] A/66/318.

[60] A/66/296, annex.

[61] Resolution 217 A (III).

[62] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, Annex No. 11, document A/5700.

[63] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[64] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu

66/76. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[65] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[66] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[67]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 65/102 of 10 December 2010, and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, including resolution S-12/1, adopted by the Council at its twelfth special session on 16 October 2009,[68]

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Taking into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[69] and recalling, in this regard, General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Gravely concerned about the continuing detrimental impact of ongoing unlawful Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in the death and injury of civilians, the widespread destruction of property and vital infrastructure, ongoing settlement activities and construction of the wall, the internal displacement of civilians, the imposition of collective punishment measures, particularly against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians,

Gravely concerned in particular by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[70] and in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[71] and stressing the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties to the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[72] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[73]

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[74] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and thus an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[75]

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

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[65] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[66] Resolution 217 A (III).

[67] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[68] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/64/53/Add.1), chap. I.

[69] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[70] See A/63/855-S/2009/250.

[71] A/HRC/12/48.

[72] See A/66/370.

[73] A/66/356, A/66/362, A/66/364, A/66/373 and A/66/400.

[74] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[75] A/66/371-S/2011/592.

2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;[72]

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, as well as the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population, the destruction and confiscation of properties, measures of collective punishment, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[65] and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(*b*) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(*c*) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(*d*) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(*e*) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

RESOLUTION 66/77

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/427, para. 18),[76] by a recorded vote of 164 to 7, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay,

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[76] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu

66/77. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/103 of 10 December 2010,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 1907,[77] the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[78] and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I[79] to the four Geneva Conventions,[80]

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[81] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[82]

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice,[83] and also recalling General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the Fourth Geneva Convention[78] is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that Israel is in breach of several of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, held on 15 July 1999, as well as the Declaration adopted by the reconvened Conference on 5 December 2001 and the need for the parties to follow up the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention, as well as the continuing efforts of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions in this regard,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[78] is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions[80] and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004,[83] to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/78

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/427, para. 18),[84] by a recorded vote of 162 to 7, with 4 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan,

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[77] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[78] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[79] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

[80] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[81] See A/66/370.

[82] A/66/356, A/66/362, A/66/364, A/66/373 and A/66/400.

[83] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[84] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Vanuatu

66/78. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/104 of 10 December 2010, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 and 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[85] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Affirming that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention[85] and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I[86] to the four Geneva Conventions,[87]

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[88] and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting that the International Court of Justice concluded that "the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law",[89]

Taking note of the recent report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,[90]

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[91] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Recalling also the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[92] and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the displacement of Palestinian families, the exploitation of natural resources and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

Bearing in mind the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the credibility of the peace process, and on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders,

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[85] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[86] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

[87] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[88] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[89] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1, advisory opinion, para. 120, see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[90] See A/66/358.

[91] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[92] S/2003/529, annex.

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map, and in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Expressing grave concern in particular about Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern in particular about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudge future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

Deeply concerned that the wall's route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploring settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons and the de facto annexation of land,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Gravely concerned about the rising incidents of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by illegal armed Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map, and calling, in this regard, for respect of the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Taking note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[93]

Taking note also of the special meeting of the Security Council convened on 26 September 2008, as well as of the meeting of the Council of 18 February 2011,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[85] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

3. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

4. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls, in this regard, for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980 and 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003;

5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;[88]

6. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of all acts of violence and harassment by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands, and stresses the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

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[93] A/66/356, A/66/362, A/66/364, A/66/373 and A/66/400.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/79

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/427, para. 18),[94] by a recorded vote of 159 to 9, with 4 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Vanuatu

66/79. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[95]

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[96] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[96] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[97] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/105 of 10 December 2010 as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and stressing the need for their implementation,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[98] and the report of the Secretary-General,[99]

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,[100] as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling, in this regard, its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice,[101] and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[102] to the Occupied Palestinian

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[94] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

[95] Resolution 217 A (III).

[96] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[97] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[98] See A/66/370.

[99] A/66/356.

[100] A/HRC/16/72; see also A/66/358.

[101] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[102] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention[102] under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[103]

Stressing also the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned in particular about the critical humanitarian and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, widespread destruction and damage to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities and the internal displacement of civilians, as well as about the firing of rockets into Israel,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[104] and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[105] and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Also expressing deep concern about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, checkpoints, several of which have been transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, and about the consequent violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and the negative impact on their socioeconomic situation and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Further expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, lack of proper medical care, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment of any Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture,

Expressing concern about the possible consequences of the enactment by Israel, the occupying Power, of military orders regarding the detention, imprisonment and deportation of Palestinian civilians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling, in this regard, the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

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[103] S/2003/529, annex.

[104] See A/63/855-S/2009/250.

[105] A/HRC/12/48.

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties implement the agreements reached, and, in this regard, recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Taking note of the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the security sector by the Palestinian Authority, calling upon the parties to continue cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[102] and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard;

3. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949[102] and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. *Further demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a peaceful settlement;

5. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among children, massive damage and destruction to homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, and internal displacement of civilians;

6. *Expresses grave concern* at the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;

7. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009);

8. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice[101] and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

9. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

10. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and, in this regard, to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/80

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/427, para. 18),[106] by a recorded vote of 162 to 1, with 11 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Tonga, United States of America, Vanuatu

66/80. The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[107]

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 65/106 of 10 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 65/106,[108]

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[109] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the

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[106] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine.

[107] See A/66/370.

[108] A/66/400.

[109] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[109] and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTIONS 66/81 A and B

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/429, para. 10)[110]

66/81. Questions relating to information

A

INFORMATION IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[111]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,[112]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(*a*) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(*b*) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(*c*) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(*d*) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(*e*) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

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[110] The draft resolutions recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee were submitted by the Committee on Information.

[111] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/66/21).

[112] A/66/261.

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communications technology available on the open market;

(*f*) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[113] which should support both public and private media.

B

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it established the Department of Public Information, with a view to promoting to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

Emphasizing that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely and relevant information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Recalling its resolution 65/107 B of 10 December 2010, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department and to maximize the use of its resources,

Expressing its concern that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and, in this regard, underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of information and communications technologies in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and, at the same time, emphasizing that the development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Recalling its resolution 63/306 of 9 September 2009, on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making use, to the fullest extent possible, of the official languages of the United Nations in the activities of the Department of Public Information, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the five other official languages,

I

Introduction

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Public Information in this context;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

4. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations public information policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Public Information shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

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[113] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, Belgrade, 23 September–28 October 1980*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

5. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities laid down by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244 of 24 December 2010, and recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[114] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[115] to pay particular attention to peace and security, development and human rights and to major issues such as the eradication of poverty, including the global food crisis, conflict prevention, sustainable development, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the needs of the African continent;

6. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the outcomes of the major related United Nations summits and conferences in carrying out its activities, and calls upon the Department to play an active role in raising public awareness of the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and of the global challenge of climate change, in particular the actions taken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[116] especially in the context of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, particularly in the context of the Conference of the Parties and of the Meetings of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;[117]

II

General activities of the Department of Public Information

7. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information;[118]

8. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation and to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of more effective coordination between the Department of Public Information and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization;

10. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

11. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication, bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fourth session on progress achieved in this regard and on the activities of the United Nations Communications Group;

13. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[119] to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website and the United Nations News Service, contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Department of Public Information and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in order to avoid duplication, within their respective mandates, in the issuance of United Nations publications;

16. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where

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[114] See resolution 55/2.

[115] See resolution 60/1.

[116] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[117] Ibid., vol. 2303, No. 30822.

[118] A/AC.198/2011/2–4.

[119] ST/SGB/2000/8.

appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

17. *Reiterates its concern* that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, through cost-neutral cooperative arrangements with academic and other institutions, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages;

Multilingualism and public information

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information, whether based on traditional or new media, including in presentations to the Committee on Information, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the five other official languages;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all the official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities and to include this aspect in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

20. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance multilingualism in all its activities, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations website and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 63/306;

Bridging the digital divide

21. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society[120] and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, including by commemorating World Information Society Day on 17 May;

Network of United Nations information centres

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in disseminating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

23. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages the network of information centres to continue to develop web pages in local languages and the Department of Public Information to provide necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all the corners of the world, in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

24. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

25. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

26. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

27. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work;

28. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the effective flow of information in those countries;

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[120] See A/C.2/59/3, annex; and A/60/687.

29. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

30. *Further stresses* that the Department of Public Information should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries;

31. *Welcomes* the support by some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

32. *Notes* the strengthening of the United Nations information centres in Cairo, Mexico City and Pretoria, and encourages the Secretary-General to explore the strengthening of other centres, especially in Africa, in cooperation with the Member States concerned and in a cost-neutral manner;

33. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations information centre in Luanda as a contribution towards addressing the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to take the measures necessary for the prompt establishment of the information centre, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fourth session on the progress made in this regard;

34. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, when appointing directors to the United Nations information centres, to fully consider, inter alia, the experience of candidates in the field of information and communications technology as one of the highly desirable appointment criteria;

III

Strategic communications services

35. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates;

Promotional campaigns

36. *Appreciates* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sustainable development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, including the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases and other diseases, the needs of the African continent, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[121] the special needs of the least developed countries, the establishment of the permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of all these issues;

37. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute to the observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007; and Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July, in accordance with Assembly resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate;

38. *Commends* the role of the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information, in holding the first official ceremony commemorating the International Day of Nowruz, on 21 March 2011, organized jointly by all the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010;

39. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to take appropriate measures to raise awareness of and disseminate information on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and relevant sustainable development issues;

40. *Also requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and disseminate information, in a cost-neutral

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[121] A/57/304, annex.

manner, on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010;

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping operations

41. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department of Public Information from the planning stage of future peacekeeping operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support;

42. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, far-reaching successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, and the recent surge in United Nations peacekeeping activities, and welcomes efforts by the three Departments to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping;

43. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions and, in this regard, invites the Department of Public Information to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations or missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

44. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts in supporting the peacekeeping missions to further develop their websites;

45. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving peacekeeping personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, and also to inform the public of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel;[122]

Role of the Department of Public Information in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as means of enhancing understanding among nations

46. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace,[123] and requests the Department of Public Information, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns under this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

47. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Public Information, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[124] and, in this regard, looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/4 of 20 October 2005, and also welcomes the decision of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session to hold an informal thematic debate on this issue in 2010;

48. *Recognizes* the achievements of the Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts made by the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, which it had welcomed in its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, takes note of the broad range of initiatives and partnerships in the areas of youth, education, the media and migration to be launched at the fourth Alliance of Civilizations Forum, to be held in Doha from 11 to 13 December 2011, and welcomes the continuing support of the Department of Public Information for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, including its ongoing projects;

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[122] Resolution 62/214, annex.

[123] Resolutions 52/15, 53/22, 53/25, 55/23, 56/6, 59/142 and 60/4.

[124] Resolution 56/6, sect. B.

IV

News services

49. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Public Information is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in all four mass media, namely, print, radio, television and the Internet, to the media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism, and reiterates its request to the Department to ensure that all news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

50. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Department of Public Information continuing to draw the attention of world media to stories that do not obtain prominent coverage, through the initiative entitled "10 Stories the World Should Hear More About" and through video and audio coverage by United Nations Television and United Nations Radio;

Traditional means of communication

51. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance its live radio broadcasting service by making more frequently updated reports in all six official languages and features available to broadcasters on a daily basis on all United Nations activities, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to achieve parity in the six official languages in United Nations Radio productions;

52. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese and Kiswahili, as well as in other languages where possible;

53. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue building partnerships with local, national and regional broadcasters to extend the United Nations message to all the corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the Radio and Television Service of the Department to continue to take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years;

United Nations website

54. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public and, in this regard, reiterates the continued need for strengthened efforts by the Department of Public Information to maintain and improve it;

55. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to access the United Nations website, and calls upon the Department to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities;

56. *Notes* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website has improved,[125] and, in this regard, requests the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices of the Secretariat, to further improve the actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website, and especially reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure the adequate distribution of financial and human resources within the Department allocated to the United Nations website among all official languages, taking into consideration the specificity of each official language;

57. *Recognizes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in some official languages, and reiterates its urgent request to the Secretary-General to extend those arrangements to all the official languages of the United Nations;

58. *Reiterates its request* that all content-providing offices of the Secretariat translate all English-language materials and databases posted on the United Nations website into all other official languages and make them available on the respective language websites in the most practical, efficient and cost-effective manner;

59. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information on a continuous basis in order to widen the outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take full advantage of new developments in information technology in order to improve the expeditious dissemination of information on the United Nations in a cost-neutral manner, in accordance with the priorities established by the General Assembly in its resolutions and taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization, recognizes the e-mail news alerts service, and encourages the Department to consult with the Office of Information and Communications Technology in order to explore, as a matter of priority, the provision of the service in all official languages;

61. *Recognizes* that some official languages use non-Latin and bidirectional scripts and that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and urges the

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[125] See A/AC.198/2007/3.

Office of Information and Communications Technology to further collaborate with the Department of Public Information and to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

62. *Calls upon* the Department of Public Information, recognizing the importance of audiovisual archives and the actions taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to preserve the published record of the Organization as a common heritage, welcoming the completion of an inventory of sixty-five years of United Nations audiovisual history, stressing the urgency of digitization in order to prevent further deterioration of the unique historical archives, and taking note of efforts made by the Department thus far to develop a digitization strategy in consultation with other Departments, including the Office of Information and Communications Technology, to explore avenues of support for digitization, including working with interested partners, to ensure that such archives are preserved and are accessible;

V

Library services

63. *Also calls upon* the Department of Public Information to continue to lead the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, and further commends the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other member libraries of the Steering Committee to align their activities, services and outputs more closely with the goals, objectives and operational priorities of the Organization;

64. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in hard copy, accessible to Member States, ensuring that the Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities;

65. *Calls upon* the Department of Public Information, recognizing the importance of audiovisual archives in preserving our common heritage, to continue to examine its policies and activities regarding the durable preservation of its radio, television, film and photographic archives and the action taken in ensuring that the archives are preserved and are accessible, including in the context of the construction work of the capital master plan within the overall budget of the plan;

66. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

67. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

VI

Outreach services

68. *Also acknowledges* that the outreach services provided by the Department of Public Information continue to work towards promoting awareness of the role and work of the United Nations;

69. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations Works programme and the Global Teaching and Learning Project, to reach educators and young people worldwide via a range of multimedia platforms, and encourages the United Nations Works programme to continue to develop further its partnerships with global media networks and celebrity advocates and the Global Teaching and Learning Project to further expand its activities to teachers and students in primary, intermediate and secondary schools;

70. *Notes* the launch of the United Nations Academic Impact, an initiative that aims to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education and to support the common principles and goals of the Organization;

71. *Also notes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

72. *Welcomes* the movement towards educational outreach and the orientation of the *UN Chronicle*, both print and online editions, and, to this end, encourages the *UN Chronicle* to continue to develop co-publishing partnerships, collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

73. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue the publication of the *UN Chronicle* with a view to improving it further in a cost-neutral manner and to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fourth session on progress in this matter, and reiterates its request to submit options for publishing the *UN Chronicle* in all six official languages;

74. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Public Information in organizing exhibitions on important United Nations-related issues, within existing mandates, at United Nations Headquarters and at other United Nations offices as a useful tool for reaching out to the general public,

reaffirms the important role that guided tours play as a means of reaching out to the general public, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the guided tours provided at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations duty stations are consistently available, in accordance with their income-generating nature, in particular in all the United Nations official languages;

75. *Also notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to strengthen its role as a focal point for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States;

76. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

77. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to involve them in its communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

VII

Final remarks

78. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution;

79. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the level of services provided by the Department of Public Information is maintained throughout the period of the implementation of the capital master plan;

80. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service, during the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to press officers of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

81. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

82. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

RESOLUTION 66/82

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/430, para. 7),[126] by a recorded vote of 170 to none, with 4 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

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[126] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

66/82. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 65/108 of 10 December 2010, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,[127]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

RESOLUTION 66/83

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/431, para. 7),[128] by a recorded vote of 170 to 2, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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[127] A/66/65 and Add.1.

[128] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

66/83. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011 relating to the item,[129]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

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[129] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. V.

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/84

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/432, para. 7),[130] by a recorded vote of 115 to none, with 56 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu

66/84. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[131] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[132] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011 relating to the item.[133]

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[130] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[131] A/66/63.

[132] E/2011/73 and Add.1.

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/30 of 23 July 2010,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/110 of 10 December 2010 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[131]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

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[133] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. VI.

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(*a*) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(*c*) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(*d*) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[134] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and

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[134] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G

elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/85

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/433, para. 7)[135]

66/85. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/111 of 10 December 2010,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[136] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[136]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

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[135] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Singapore and United Republic of Tanzania.

[136] A/66/68 and Add.1.

RESOLUTION 66/86

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27)[137]

66/86. Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/112 of 10 December 2010,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990, 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001, 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570 (2004) of 28 October 2004, 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005, 1634 (2005) of 28 October 2005, 1675 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1720 (2006) of 31 October 2006,

Underlining the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007) on 30 April 2007, 1783 (2007) on 31 October 2007, 1813 (2008) on 30 April 2008, 1871 (2009) on 30 April 2009, 1920 (2010) on 30 April 2010 and 1979 (2011) on 27 April 2011,

Expressing its satisfaction that the parties met on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and in the presence of the neighbouring countries and that they have agreed to continue the negotiations,

Also expressing its satisfaction at the holding of eight informal meetings convened by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on 9 and 10 August 2009 in Dürnstein, Austria, on 10 and 11 February 2010 in Westchester County, New York, United States of America, from 7 to 10 November 2010, from 16 to 18 December 2010 and from 21 to 23 January 2011, all on Long Island, New York, from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Mellieha, Malta, and from 5 to 7 June 2011 and from 19 to 21 July 2011, both on Long Island, to prepare for the fifth round of negotiations,

Calling upon all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and with each other,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

Welcoming, in this regard, the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011,[138]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara,[139]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[139]

2. *Supports* the process of negotiations initiated by Security Council resolution 1754 (2007) and further sustained by Council resolutions 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010) and 1979 (2011) with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in this respect;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, taking note of efforts and developments since 2006, thus ensuring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010) and 1979 (2011) and the success of negotiations;

4. *Also welcomes* the ongoing negotiations between the parties held on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 in the presence of the neighbouring countries and under the auspices of the United Nations;

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[137] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

[138] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. VIII.

[139] A/66/260.

5. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and calls upon them to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/87

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27)[140]

66/87. Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011 relating to New Caledonia,[141]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Noting further the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to New Caledonia from 4 to 13 February 2011,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia since the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[142]

2. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony, and in this context welcomes the unanimous agreement, reached in Paris on 8 December 2008, on the transfer of powers to New Caledonia in 2009 and the conduct of provincial elections in May 2009;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and welcomes, in this context, the adoption on 18 August 2010 by the Government of New Caledonia of the law on the anthem, the motto and banknote designs;

4. *Also notes* the ongoing difficulties regarding the question of the flag and the ensuing Cabinet crisis;

5. *Acknowledges* those provisions of the Nouméa Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment, and notes that unemployment remains high among Kanaks and that recruitment of foreign mine workers continues;

6. *Notes* the concerns expressed by a group of indigenous people in New Caledonia regarding their underrepresentation in the Territory's governmental and social structures;

7. *Also notes* the concerns expressed by representatives of indigenous people regarding incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

8. *Takes note* of the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

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[140] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[141] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. VIII.

[142] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

9. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

10. *Recalls* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

11. *Notes* the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund in such areas as economic and trade cooperation, the environment, climate change and financial services;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

13. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

14. *Recalls with satisfaction* the efforts of the French authorities to resolve the question of voter registration by adopting, in the French Congress of Parliament, on 19 February 2007, amendments to the French Constitution allowing New Caledonia to restrict eligibility to vote in local polls to those voters registered on the 1998 electoral rolls when the Nouméa Accord was signed, thus ensuring strong representation of the Kanak population;

15. *Notes* the efforts of the French authorities to address the Cabinet crisis;

16. *Welcomes* all measures taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

17. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

18. *Notes* the financial assistance rendered by the Government of France to the Territory in areas such as health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding development schemes;

19. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the eighteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, held in Suva on 31 March 2011, including the recommendations for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord;

20. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

21. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, including the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

22. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during the France-Oceania Summits in July 2003, June 2006 and July 2009;

23. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum and the easing of short-stay visa procedures for countries of the South Pacific;

24. *Recalls with satisfaction*, in this regard, the participation of New Caledonia at the forty-first summit of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Port Vila on 4 and 5 August 2010, following its accession to the Forum as an associate member in October 2006, and welcomes the support of the Government of France for the application by New Caledonia for a full membership in the Pacific Islands Forum;

25. *Recalls* the continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

26. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

27. *Also welcomes* the reactivation of dialogue on New Caledonia by the Ministerial Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2010 and the request of Forum leaders to the Forum secretariat to explore ways to expand the role and engagement of New Caledonia in the Forum;

28. *Recalls* the successful conclusion of the Pacific regional seminar of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in Nouméa from 18 to 20 May 2010;

29. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

30. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing

Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/88

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27)[143]

66/88. Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011 relating to Tokelau,[144]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 65/114 of 10 December 2010,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Noting also Tokelau's associate member status with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), in particular the delegation of the Administrator's powers to the three taupulega with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega from that date of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

3. *Recalls* the decision of the General Fono in November 2003, following extensive consultations in all three villages and a meeting of the Special Committee on the Constitution of Tokelau, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, and the discussions subsequently held between Tokelau and New Zealand pursuant to the decision of the General Fono;

4. *Also recalls* the decision of the General Fono in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and notes the enactment by the General Fono of rules for the referendum;

5. *Further recalls* that two referendums to determine the status of Tokelau, held in February 2006 and October 2007, did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand;

6. *Commends* the professional and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for the people of Tokelau;

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[143] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[144] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. X.

8. *Also acknowledges* Tokelau's adoption of its National Strategic Plan for 2010–2015 and the fact that the Joint Commitment for Development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011–2015 will focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, fisheries development, human resources capacity and the strengthening of governance;

9. *Further acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme;

10. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support from the international community;

11. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

14. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau to the Secretary-General;

15. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTIONS 66/89 A and B

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27)[145]

66/89. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011,[146]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that fifty-one years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[147] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by

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[145] The draft resolutions recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee were submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[146] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. IX.

[147] Resolution 1514 (XV).

2020 and the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[148]

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the aegis of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Mindful that the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar was held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and, in this connection, bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development

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[148] See A/56/61, annex, and resolution 65/119.

Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Noting the statement by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Caribbean regional seminar in Kingstown that all six Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are active associate members of the Economic Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[149] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[150] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[151]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[148] in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

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[149] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[150] A/AC.109/2011/2, 4–12 and 15.

[151] A/65/330 and Add.1.

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[149] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I

American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[152] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011, that the Territory's position that it should be removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to hold, that it was time to make political and economic progress while respecting the concerns of the administering Power and the United Nations, and that the administering Powers should be urged to transmit information on their respective Non-Self-Governing Territories for consideration by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Aware that under United States law the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[153]

Noting the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa in regional seminars, including at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, inviting the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007, and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee in the Territory, as well as the holding in June 2010 of American Samoa's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting, in that regard, the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar and previous policy papers presented to the Special Committee stating that, against a backdrop of a decades-long popular preference for integration with the United States of America, the Territory wished to move forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, that the effects of certain federal laws on the Territory's economy are serious cause for concern,

Aware that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Takes note* that, at the November 2010 general elections, voters defeated the proposed amendments to the 1967 revised Constitution of American Samoa adopted at the fourth Constitutional Convention, held in June 2010;

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[152] A/AC.109/2011/12.

[153] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

2. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2011 to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

6. *Welcomes* the invitation to American Samoa in 2011 to become Pacific Islands Forum observer;

II

Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[154] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement of the representative of Anguilla at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, and the 2008 decision to set up a drafting team consisting of territorial Government officials, members of the House of Assembly and lawyers to draft a new constitution, as well as the presentation of the draft constitution for public consultation in the Territory in 2009 and the expectation that the draft text will be discussed with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with the aim of seeking full internal self-government without prejudice to independence as an option,

Aware of certain difficulties in the relations between the territorial Government and the administering Power regarding budgetary and economic matters and of the intention of the territorial Government to continue its commitment to high-end tourism in an effort to promote local employment opportunities,

Noting the participation of the Territory as an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Aware of the willingness expressed by the Prime Ministers of the States members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in 2011 to assist in the resolution of difficulties being experienced by the territorial Government in respect of its relations with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. *Once again welcomes* the presentation of a new constitution for public consultation in 2009 with the aim of further discussing the new constitution with the administering Power in 2010, and urges that constitutional discussions be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III

Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[155] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of Bermuda at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

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[154] A/AC.109/2011/2.

[155] A/AC.109/2011/5.

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting a January 2011 survey by local media according to which 73 per cent of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and 14 per cent were in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

IV

British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[156] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement of the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011, that independence was not a matter regularly discussed among the people of the Territory as there had been no popular call for such a drastic change in the relationship with the administering Power and that the policy framework governing the relationship with the administering Power was being reviewed,

Recalling the 1993 report of the Constitutional Commissioners, the 1996 debate on the report in the Legislative Council of the Territory, the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission in 2004, the completion in 2005 of its report providing recommendations on internal constitutional modernization and the debate held in 2005 on the report in the Legislative Council, as well as the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which resulted in the adoption of the new Constitution of the Territory in 2007,

Noting the view expressed in the aforementioned statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar that there was scope for further constitutional review with respect to the practical and effective implementation of the provisions of the 2007 Constitution in the Territory,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the Territory's financial and tourism services sectors, which was possibly somewhat less severe in 2010–2011,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Recalls* the Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, which took effect in 2007, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the 2007 Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Territory to strengthen its financial services regulatory regime and to seek new, non-traditional markets for its tourism industry;

4. *Also welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Further welcomes* the holding, for the first time at the level of heads of territorial Government, on 12 May 2011, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V

Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[157] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Nouméa from 18 to 20 May 2010,

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[156] A/AC.109/2011/6.

[157] A/AC.109/2011/8.

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Commission, which contained a draft constitution for the consideration of the people of the Territory, the 2003 draft constitution offered by the administering Power and the subsequent discussions between the Territory and the administering Power in 2003, and the reopening of discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government on internal constitutional modernization, in 2006, which resulted in the finalization of a new draft constitution in February 2009, its subsequent acceptance by referendum in May 2009, and promulgation in November 2009,

Conscious of the work, under the 2009 Constitution, of the new Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Acknowledging the view of the territorial Government that, in spite of the global economic downturn and unemployment issues, the Territory's financial services and tourism industries would help sustain a strong economy,

1. *Recalls* the Constitution, which took effect in 2009, and stresses the importance of the work of the new Constitutional Commission, including human rights education, in the Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's active participation in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to implement sectoral management policies such as investment facilitation and regulation and the promotion of medical and sports tourism, as well as unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors;

VI

Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[158] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011, that the territorial Government had a strong commitment to the inalienable right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination, aspired to a partnership with the administering Power wherein all interests would be respected and considered, and generally considered militarism an impediment to decolonization,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[159]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory, including at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concerns expressed by civil society and others, including at the meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly in October 2009 and 2010, at the Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa from 18 to 20 May 2010, and at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987

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[158] A/AC.109/2011/15.

[159] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government, including the convening in 2011 of a Chamorro forum;

4. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

5. *Welcomes* the invitation to Guam in 2011 to become Pacific Islands Forum observer;

VII

Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[160] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of Montserrat at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Review Commission, the convening of a committee of the House of Assembly in 2005 to review the report, the subsequent negotiating process with the administering Power on a draft constitution according greater autonomy to the territorial Government, the efforts of the newly elected 2010 territorial Government to continue the process of negotiating constitutional reforms with the administering Power, and the draft constitution agreed between the two parties and published for public consultation,

Noting the approval of a new Constitution in 2010 and the work of the territorial Government to update the relevant parts of the Territory's legislation so that the Constitution can enter into force in 2011,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling the statements made by participants at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the Territory's special needs,

Noting with concern the continued consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

1. *Recalls* the progress made by the territorial Government and the administering Power on concluding the negotiations to reform the Constitution of the Territory, and welcomes the approval of a new Constitution for the Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII

Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[161] and other relevant information,

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[160] A/AC.109/2011/11.

[161] A/AC.109/2011/4.

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that, following consultations in 2009, the Pitcairn Constitution Order 2010, including human rights provisions, came into force in the Territory in March 2010,

Aware also that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a new governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

1. *Recalls* the entry into force of the Pitcairn Constitution Order 2010 in the Territory in March 2010, featuring a new constitutional framework and human rights provisions, and all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic security in Pitcairn;

IX

Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[162] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement of the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Aware of the internal constitutional review process led by the territorial Government since 2001, the completion of a draft constitution following negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government in 2003 and 2004, the consultative poll with regard to a new Constitution, held in Saint Helena in May 2005, the subsequent preparation of a revised draft constitution and its publication in June 2008 for further public consultation, and the entry into force of the new Constitution for Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha on 1 September 2009,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government in dealing with it,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena, and, in this regard, the administering Power's announcement in 2010 about plans for building an airport on the island of Saint Helena,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the Territory's 2009 Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the Territory's socioeconomic development challenges, including unemployment, and limited transport and communications infrastructure;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into account the unique geographical character of Saint Helena while resolving as soon as feasible any outstanding issues related to the airport construction;

X

Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[163] and other relevant information,

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[162] A/AC.109/2011/7.

[163] A/AC.109/2011/10.

Recalling the statement of the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the Constitution agreed between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which entered into force in 2006,

Noting the administering Power's decisions to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands, covering the constitutional right to trial by jury, ministerial Government, and the House of Assembly, following the recommendations of an independent Commission of Inquiry and the ruling of the administering Power's Court of Appeal, to present a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011, and to introduce a new constitution for the Territory,

Noting also the continued postponement of elections in the Territory,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the Territory's economy, and the 2010–2011 fiscal stabilization plan providing stimuli to the Territory's private sector,

1. *Notes with grave concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction of a new 2011 constitution, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Calls for* the restoration of constitutional arrangements providing for representative democracy through elected territorial Government as soon as possible;

3. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the restoration of democratically elected territorial Government as a matter of urgency, and also notes the view expressed by the administering Power that elections should not be postponed any longer than necessary;

4. *Also notes* the extensive public consultations undertaken by the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser and the continued debate on constitutional and electoral reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

5. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a Constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of the people of the Territory, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

XI

United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[164] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[165]

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in

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[164] A/AC.109/2011/9.

[165] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Reiterates its call for* the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

6. *Also welcomes* the holding, for the first time at the level of heads of territorial Government, on 12 May 2011, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

RESOLUTION 66/90

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27),[166] by a recorded vote of 166 to 3, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France

66/90. Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[167]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular Assembly resolution 65/116 of 10 December 2010,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[168]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

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[166] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

[167] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23), chap. III.

[168] See resolution 65/119.

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and recalls with satisfaction the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end, requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(*a*) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(*b*) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(*c*) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help improve the exchange of information;

(*d*) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(*e*) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(*f*) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/91

Adopted at the 81st plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/434, para. 27),[169] by a recorded vote of 168 to 3, with 1 abstention, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of

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[169] The draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fourth Committee was submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: France

66/91. Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011,[170]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 65/117 of 10 December 2010, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[171]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

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[170] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/66/23).

[171] Resolution 217 A (III).

(*a*) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

(*b*) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(*c*) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(*d*) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(*e*) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(*f*) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(*g*) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(*h*) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[172]

8. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[173] updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

15. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2011, including the programme of work envisaged for 2012;[170]

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

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[172] See resolution 54/91.

[173] A/56/61, annex.

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RESOLUTION 66/184

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/437 para. 12)[1]

66/184. Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009 and 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling further the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[2] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[3] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[4] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[5]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[8]

Noting the organization of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2011 in Geneva from 16 to 20 May 2011,

Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", established by the Commission at its Broadband Leadership Summit, held in Geneva on 24 and 25 October 2011, which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and broadband uptake towards the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure that the potential of broadband connectivity and content are at the service of development,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Noting the holding of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 23 to 27 May 2011,

Noting also that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[9] will further enrich the information society,

Acknowledging the positive trends in global connectivity and affordability in the field of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world's population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony, the increased availability of multilingual content and Internet addresses and the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-government, e-education, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

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[1] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 59/220.

[4] See A/60/687.

[5] See resolution 60/252.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

[8] A/66/64-E/2011/77.

[9] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. I and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

Emphasizing, however, that in spite of recent progress, there remains an important digital divide, recognizing in this regard that currently only 26 per cent of the population in developing countries uses the Internet, compared with 74 per cent in developed countries, and stressing the need to reduce the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as international interconnection charges for Internet use, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

Reaffirming the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on the positive trends in the diffusion of information and communications technologies and the investment needed to ensure universal access to such technologies,

Expressing concern also about the growing gap in broadband provision between developed and developing countries, as well as about the new dimensions that the digital divide has taken on,

Recognizing that the lack of capacity-building for the productive use of information and communications technologies needs to be addressed in order to overcome the digital divide,

Recognizing also that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, the information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from it, and recognizing in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies,

Reaffirming paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Declaration of Principles adopted in Geneva in 2003, and recognizing that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are essential for the information society and are beneficial to development,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating cybercrime, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes,

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public,

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

Recognizing also the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, including public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders so as to help in addressing the various issues of Internet governance, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods,

Recalling its decision that the desirability of the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum will be considered again by Member States in the General Assembly in the context of a ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015,

Reiterating the significance and urgency of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda and the need for enhanced cooperation to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet but not in respect of the day-to-day technical and operational matters that have no impact on those issues,

Reaffirming that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society relating to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizing that the two processes may be complementary,

Reaffirming also paragraphs 35 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010 and in Nairobi in 2011,

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect

Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the First Digital Agenda Assembly of the European Union held in Brussels on 16 and 17 June 2011 and the annual European Dialogue on Internet Governance, which are regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and further expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

3. *Acknowledges* that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to and use of information and communications technologies for their overall empowerment and benefit;

4. *Stresses* that, for the majority of the poor, the development promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

5. *Also stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communications technologies, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

6. *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communications technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and complemented by South-South cooperation, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation can be useful tools for promoting the development of information and communications technologies;

7. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment, connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

8. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity;

9. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[2] and Tunis[4] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

10. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and further decides to consider the modalities for this review process at its sixty-seventh session;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international and regional organizations, for organizing annually the ICT 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit to promote a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technologies sector worldwide;

12. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome

documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

13. *Also notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[8]

14. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the need for resources in this regard;

15. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Also recognizes* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

17. *Notes* the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,[10] and takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraphs 27 to 29 of its resolution 2011/16, to extend the mandate of the Working Group until the fifteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in order for it to complete its task in accordance with its mandate, and urges the Working Group to submit its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session, which shall constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all Internet Governance Forum meetings, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 22 of its resolution 65/141, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,[11] in particular of the consultations convened by the Secretary-General through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, including the meeting held in New York on 14 December 2010, invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to convene, in conjunction with the fifteenth session of the Commission, a one-day open, inclusive and interactive meeting involving all Member States and other stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, with a view to identifying a shared understanding of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Tunis Agenda, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the outcome of the meeting when preparing his report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development".

RESOLUTION 66/185

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.1, para. 13)[12]

66/185. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003 and 63/203 of 19 December 2008 on international trade and development,

Noting its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010 on international trade and development,

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[10] A/66/67-E/2011/79.

[11] A/66/77-E/2011/103.

[12] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] as well as the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[14] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[15] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[16] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[17]

Recalling also the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[18]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[19]

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its outcome documents,[20]

Reaffirming the value of multilateralism to the global trading system and the commitment to achieving a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment generation in all sectors, and emphasizing that bilateral and regional trading arrangements should contribute and be complementary to the goals of the multilateral trading system,

Reiterating that development concerns form an integral part of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of all developing countries, including least developed countries, at the heart of the Doha Work Programme,[21]

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for the overwhelming majority of developing countries, and stressing the importance of a successful conclusion of the Doha Work Programme in this regard,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including the turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, that threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Noting that while some developing countries have been the main contributors to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board[22] and the report of the Secretary-General;[23]

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations;

4. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[21] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization[24] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;[25]

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[13] See resolution 55/2.

[14] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[15] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[16] See resolution 60/1.

[17] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[18] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[19] See resolution 65/1.

[20] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[21] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[22] A/66/15 (Parts I-IV). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/66/15).

[23] A/66/185 and Add.1.

[24] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[25] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Geneva in December 2011, and looks forward to its outcome;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries,[21] and encourages developed countries and developing countries, declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

7. *Emphasizes* the full, timely and effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[20]

8. *Reaffirms* the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;[26]

9. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions and extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial, humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme, and to not impose them in the future;

10. *Recognizes* the particular challenges that may be faced by small, vulnerable economies to fully benefit from the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances, and in this regard encourages progress in the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, as mandated in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and calls for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[27] in accordance with the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;[28]

12. *Expresses concern* about the adoption of unilateral actions that are not consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

13. *Notes* the holding in Geneva on 18 and 19 July 2011 of the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, aimed at reviewing progress achieved and identifying additional measures needed to support developing and least developed countries in building their supply and export capacities, and stresses the need to implement the aid-for-trade commitments;

14. *Recognizes* that South-South trade should be strengthened, notes that enhanced market access between developing countries can play a positive role in stimulating South-South trade, and in this regard, inter alia, takes note of the conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, by the adoption, on 15 December 2010, of the São Paulo Round Protocol;[29]

15. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, invites the Conference to continue working to enhance its contribution in its three major pillars, namely, consensus-building, research and policy analysis, and technical assistance, and calls upon the international community to work towards the strengthening of the Conference;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, in accordance with its mandate, to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective, and in particular to analyse issues of concern to developing countries, placing greater emphasis on practical solutions, to undertake policy analysis, to work with all relevant stakeholders and to support developing countries in building productive national capacities and international competitiveness, including through technical assistance activities;

17. *Welcomes* the convening of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012 on the theme "Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development", and looks forward to its successful outcome;

18. *Recognizes* the role of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

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[26] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[27] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[28] See resolution 63/2.

[29] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document SPR/NC/FOZ/3.

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system, under the sub-item entitled "International trade and development" of the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization.

RESOLUTION 66/186

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.1, para. 13),[30] by a recorded vote of 122 to 2, with 53 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

66/186. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[31] which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999, 56/179 of 21 December 2001, 58/198 of 23 December 2003, 60/185 of 22 December 2005, 62/183 of 19 December 2007 and 64/189 of 21 December 2009,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economy and development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

Recognizing that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[32]

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;

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[30] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Belarus.

[31] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[32] A/66/138.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/187

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.2, para. 18)[33]

66/187. International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, both entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009 and 65/143 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[34] and its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[35] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[36] Agenda 21,[37] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[38] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[39]

Recalling further the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,[40]

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[41]

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[42]

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and taking note of its progress report,[43]

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including the turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Noting that, while some developing countries have been the main contributors to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in its Charter, including to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, and reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Reiterating that the international financial system should support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, and hunger and poverty eradication efforts in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

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[33] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[34] See resolution 55/2.

[35] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[36] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[37] Ibid., annex II.

[38] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[39] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[40] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[41] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[42] See resolution 65/1.

[43] A/64/884.

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[44] and recognizing, in this context, that the international financial system should be supportive, as appropriate, of the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries,

Stressing the importance of commitment to ensuring sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[45]

2. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems and the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Stresses* the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy in order to ensure balanced, sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment and quality jobs;

4. *Notes*, in this regard, the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis, including the efforts to reinforce the banking sector by increasing its transparency and accountability;

5. *Also notes* that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership and legitimacy, provides a unique and key forum for discussing international economic issues and their impact on development, and reaffirms that the United Nations is well positioned to participate in various reform processes aimed at improving and strengthening the effective functioning of the international financial system and architecture, while recognizing that the United Nations and the international financial institutions have complementary mandates which make the coordination of their actions crucial;

6. *Recalls*, in this regard, the resolve to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system and multilateral financial, trade and development institutions so as to support economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development worldwide, on the basis of a clear understanding of and respect for their mandates and governance structures;

7. *Also recalls* that countries must have the flexibility necessary to implement countercyclical measures and to pursue tailored and targeted responses to the crisis, and calls for conditionalities to be streamlined to ensure that they are timely, tailored and targeted and that they support developing countries in the face of financial, economic and development challenges;

8. *Further recalls*, in this regard, the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and the creation of more flexible instruments, such as a precautionary and liquidity line, while also noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities;

9. *Recognizes* the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stresses the challenges posed by excessive short-term capital inflows to many developing countries, encourages further review of the benefits and disadvantages of macroprudential measures available to mitigate the impact of volatile capital flows, and requests the Secretary-General to take this into account in preparing his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help to mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and to stabilize macroeconomic developments;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and in this regard takes note of recent important decisions on reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, and reiterates the importance of the reform of the governance of those institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;

12. *Notes*, in this regard, the decisions taken by the World Bank Group on voice and participation and further institutional reforms to meet new challenges, and the addition of the twenty-fifth Chair to the Boards of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group, and looks forward to progress in its institutional reforms, calls for the swift implementation of the 2010 quota and governance reform of the International Monetary Fund, and reiterates the importance of an open, transparent and merit-based process for selecting the heads of the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions;

13. *Recognizes* the role of special drawing rights as an international reserve asset, and acknowledges that recent special drawing rights allocations helped to supplement international reserves in response to the world financial and economic crisis, thus contributing to the stability of the international financial system and global economic resilience;

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[44] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[45] A/66/167.

14. *Reiterates* that effective, inclusive multilateral surveillance should be at the centre of crisis prevention efforts, and stresses the need to continue strengthening surveillance of economic policies of countries;

15. *Invites* the international financial and banking institutions to continue enhancing the transparency of risk-rating mechanisms, noting that sovereign risk assessments made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis, and encourages relevant institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue their work on the issue, including its potential impact on the development prospects of developing countries;

16. *Calls upon* the multilateral, regional and subregional development banks and development funds to continue to play a vital role in serving the development needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through coordinated action, as appropriate, stresses that strengthened regional development banks and subregional financial institutions can add flexible financial support to national and regional development efforts, thus enhancing their ownership and overall efficiency, and in this regard welcomes recent capital increases at multilateral and regional development banks and, in addition, encourages efforts to ensure that subregional development banks are adequately funded;

17. *Encourages* enhanced regional and subregional cooperation, including through regional and subregional development banks, commercial and reserve currency arrangements and other regional and subregional initiatives;

18. *Stresses* the need to continuously improve standards of corporate and public sector governance, including those related to accounting, auditing and measures to ensure transparency, noting the disruptive effects of inadequate policies;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development".

RESOLUTION 66/188

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.2, para. 18)[46]

66/188. Addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[47] which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition[48] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[49] in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action[50] and the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[51]

Recalling its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[52] and recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[53]

Recalling also the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[54]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[55]

Taking note of the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including the Committee on World Food Security, and by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, particularly its recent work on the financialization of commodity markets,

Taking note also of recent initiatives that aim to help Governments, firms and farmers to mitigate and build capacity to manage the risks associated with excessive food price volatility, in particular in the poorest countries,

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[46] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[47] Resolution 217 A (III).

[48] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[49] See resolution 55/2.

[50] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13–17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[51] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[52] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[53] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[54] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[55] Resolution 63/303, annex.

Recognizing the need to support a comprehensive and coordinated response in order to address the multiple and complex causes of excessive price volatility of food and related commodities in financial markets,

Deeply concerned by excessive volatility of commodity prices and by the impact that excessive price volatility has on food security and sustainable development in developing countries, and, in particular, by the fact that many commodity-dependent developing countries and economies in transition continue to be highly vulnerable to excessive price fluctuations, and recognizing the need to improve the adequate regulation, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets in order to address excessive commodity price volatility,

Reiterating that the international financial system should support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, and hunger and poverty eradication efforts in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Agriculture development and food security: progress on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security", which inter alia, highlights the significant increase in the financialization of commodity markets since about 2004, as reflected in rising volumes of financial investments in commodity derivatives markets,[56]

Taking note also of the policy report entitled "Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses",[57] issued on 2 June 2011 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

1. *Recognizes* the initiative of Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, "Towards Reaching an International Consensus that Aims to Reduce Excessive Price Volatility and Speculation in Commodity Markets";

2. *Stresses* the need to take active measures to reduce excessive food price volatility, while acknowledging that there is an incomplete understanding of its causes and that more research needs to be done, and in this regard underlines the need to promote greater transparency and market information at all levels;

3. *Underlines* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, and in this regard takes note of the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and urges the participating international organizations, private-sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at the sixty-sixth session to convene a high-level thematic debate, to be held in plenary meeting, with the participation of Member States, independent experts and other stakeholders, to promote an exchange of views on addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets, while taking into account relevant work done at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Invites* all relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, to participate actively in the high-level thematic debate and to continue their research and analysis on this matter;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of considering, in this dialogue, the needs of developing countries, and stresses that special attention should be given to the needs of net-food-importing developing countries in addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets to achieve their food security;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the outcomes of the high-level thematic debate in relevant reports to be submitted under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions" and other relevant agenda items.

RESOLUTION 66/189

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.3, para. 8)[58]

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[56] See A/66/277, para. 10.

[57] Coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as a joint report to the Group of Twenty (G-20).

[58] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

66/189. External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009 and 65/144 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000,[59]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[60]

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document[61] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[62]

Recalling also the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[63]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[64]

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[65]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Recalling further its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledging that sovereign debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting in particular the poor and vulnerable,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reaffirming also that multilateral institutions, including entities within the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, should continue to play an important role, given their respective mandates, in assisting countries in achieving and maintaining debt sustainability,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as those derived from the world financial and economic crisis, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Recognizing the importance of efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in response to the challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis, and acknowledging that the impacts of the crisis on development continue, entail the possibility of undermining the progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries, through, inter alia, the consequences on the real economy and government revenue and the increase in borrowing to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis,

Recognizing also the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis in developing countries,

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[59] See resolution 55/2.

[60] See resolution 60/1.

[61] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[62] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[63] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[64] See resolution 65/1.

[65] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

Recognizing further the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stressing the challenges posed by excessive short-term capital inflows to many developing countries, including to their debt sustainability, and encouraging further review of the benefits and disadvantages of the macroprudential measures available to mitigate the impact of volatile capital flows,

Expressing concern that some low-income countries face increased challenges in servicing their debt,

Expressing deep concern that, in spite of international efforts, many least developed countries still struggle with a high debt burden,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to thirty-two countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services, while acknowledging with concern that some post-completion point countries remain classified as being at high risk of debt distress and need to avoid rebuilding unsustainable debt burdens,

Convinced that enhanced market access for goods and services of export interest to developing countries contributes significantly to debt sustainability in those countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[66]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries in order to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Stresses* the importance of responsible lending and borrowing, emphasizes that creditors and debtors must share responsibility for preventing unsustainable debt situations, and encourages Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders to continue the ongoing discussions on this issue, inter alia, within the framework of the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing;

4. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, and encourages continued review of the Framework, with the full engagement of borrower Governments, in an open and transparent manner;

5. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgements about a country's debt sustainability, and, in this regard, while acknowledging the need to use transparent and comparable indicators, invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in their assessment of debt sustainability, to continue to take into account a country's structural weaknesses and the fundamental changes caused by, inter alia, natural disasters, conflicts and changes in global growth prospects or in the terms of trade, especially for commodity-dependent developing countries, as well as by the impact of developments in financial markets, and to provide information on this issue to Member States, using the appropriate frameworks;

6. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, mobilization of domestic and international resources, export prospects of debtor countries, responsible debt management, sound macroeconomic policies, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling international environment that is conducive to development;

7. *Also recognizes* the enormity and the multidimensional nature of the world financial and economic crisis, which caused a sharp deterioration of the debt ratios in several developing countries, stresses the need to continue to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, takes note in this regard of the additional resources made available during and since the crisis through the International Monetary Fund and the multilateral development banks, and calls for the continued provision of concessional and grant-based financing to low-income countries to enable them to respond to the consequences of the crisis;

8. *Further recognizes* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, recalls, in this regard, the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and the creation of more flexible instruments, such as a precautionary and liquidity line, while noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities, and urges the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded

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[66] A/66/164.

assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

10. *Notes* the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to low-income countries in the form of zero-interest payments on financing from concessional lending facilities until the end of 2011, and invites the Fund to consider extending its concessional loan facilities for low-income countries for the post-2011 period;

11. *Also notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

12. *Further notes* the progress made under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, while expressing concern that some countries have yet to reach decision or completion points, calls for the full and timely implementation of those Initiatives and for continued support to the remaining eligible countries in completing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative process, and encourages all parties, both creditors and debtors, to fulfil their commitments as rapidly as possible in order to complete the debt relief process;

13. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of the heavily indebted poor countries, calls upon them to continue to strengthen their domestic policies to promote economic growth and poverty eradication through, inter alia, the creation of a domestic environment conducive to private-sector development, a stable macroeconomic framework and transparent and accountable systems of public finance, and invites the international financing institutions and the donor community to continue to provide adequate and sufficiently concessional financing;

14. *Encourages* the international financial institutions to review the implementation and the impact of debt relief initiatives to better understand why some countries still face persisting debt problems after completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and calls for the consideration of strategies to address them;

15. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy its full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute their fair share and become involved in the international debt resolution mechanisms to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including through providing comparable treatment to the extent possible to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

16. *Stresses* that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, economic development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards those objectives, according to their national priorities and strategies;

17. *Encourages* donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative do not detract from official development assistance resources intended to be available for developing countries;

18. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that are not part of existing debt relief initiatives may have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, indicating a possible need to consider debt relief initiatives for those countries on a case-by-case basis, and encourages the consideration of medium- and long-term sustainability as well as new approaches to deal with bilateral and private non-Paris Club debt;

19. *Encourages* the Paris Club, in dealing with the debt of low- and middle-income debtor countries that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, to take into account their medium-term debt sustainability in addition to their financing gaps, and notes with appreciation the Evian approach of the Paris Club in providing different terms of debt relief in order to respond to the specific needs of debtor countries while preserving debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries;

20. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of and calls upon the international community to provide flexibility, and stresses the need to continue those efforts in helping post-conflict developing countries, especially those that are heavily indebted and poor, to achieve initial reconstruction for economic and social development;

22. *Also welcomes* the efforts of and invites creditors to provide flexibility to developing countries affected by natural

disasters so as to allow them to address their debt concerns, while taking into account their specific situations and needs;

23. *Calls for* the consideration of additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing, the cancellation of 100 per cent of the eligible official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, significant debt relief or restructuring for developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

24. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their efforts to increase bilateral grants to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and recognizes the need for countries to be able to promote employment and productive investment and to invest in, inter alia, health and education while maintaining debt sustainability;

25. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Millennium Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

26. *Also calls for* the consideration of enhanced approaches to sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, based on existing frameworks and principles, with the broad participation of creditors and debtors, the comparable treatment of all creditors and an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations within the United Nations system, and in this regard calls upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions, within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, on the need for and feasibility of a more structured framework for international cooperation in this area;

27. *Decides* to devote one of the special events of the Second Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly to lessons learned from debt crises and to the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including multilateral financial institutions;

28. *Notes* the changing composition of the sovereign debt of some countries, which has shifted increasingly from official to commercial borrowing and from external to domestic public debt, although for most low-income countries external finance is still largely official, also notes that the levels of domestic debt and the significantly increased number of creditors, both official and private, could create other challenges for macroeconomic management and public debt sustainability, and stresses the need to address the implications of these changes, including through improved data collection and analysis;

29. *Recognizes* concerns about vulture fund litigation and that some debtor countries may experience difficulties in obtaining comparable treatment from non-Paris Club creditors, as required by the standard clause included in Paris Club agreements, and encourages the continued provision by the relevant institutions of mechanisms and legal assistance to debtor countries to solve litigation issues;

30. *Stresses* the need to increase information-sharing, transparency and the use of objective criteria in the construction and evaluation of debt scenarios, including an assessment of domestic public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of development goals, recognizes that credit-rating agencies play a significant role in the provision of information, including the assessment of corporate and sovereign risks, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session to convene a thematic debate on the role of credit rating agencies in the international financial system and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on this issue when preparing his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

32. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of capacity-building activities in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability;

33. *Encourages* further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers;

34. *Acknowledges* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are a condition necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect data, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation

programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

35. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the external debt situation of developing countries;

37. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development".

RESOLUTION 66/190

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/438/Add.4, para. 8)[67]

66/190. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/224 of 22 December 2004, 61/190 of 20 December 2006, 63/207 of 19 December 2008 and 64/192 of 21 December 2009 on commodities,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[68] the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005[69] and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[70]

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[71]

Taking note of the targets set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, which reaffirms the pledge to end hunger and poverty,[72]

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome,[73]

Recalling also the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Taking note of the Accra Accord, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its twelfth session,[74] containing far-reaching recommendations on commodity issues, and of further decisions and agreed conclusions on commodities adopted by the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies in 2010 and 2011, including the evaluation and review of the implementation by the Conference of the Accra Accord, and looking forward to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012,

Taking note also of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, held in New York on 22 September 2008,[75]

Taking note further of the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities adopted at the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade on Commodities, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 21 to 23 November 2005,[76] and endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006,[77]

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[67] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[68] See resolution 55/2.

[69] See resolution 60/1.

[70] See resolution 65/1.

[71] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[72] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[73] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[74] TD/442 and Corr.1, chap. II.

[75] See resolution 63/1.

[76] African Union, document AU/Min/Com/Dec1.Rev.1.

[77] See A/60/693, annex II, decision EX.CL/Dec.253 (VIII).

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[78]

Recognizing that many developing countries continue to be highly dependent on primary commodities as their principal source of export revenues, employment, income generation and domestic savings, and as the driving force of investment, economic growth and social development, including poverty eradication,

Taking note of the comprehensive policy report entitled "Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses",[79] issued on 2 June 2011 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

Deeply concerned by episodes of commodity price booms and subsequent busts and by the fact that many commodity-dependent developing countries and economies in transition continue to be highly vulnerable to price fluctuations, and recognizing the need to improve the regulation, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets, which can address excessive commodity price volatility,

Recognizing the impact of factors such as climate change on the production of agricultural commodities,

Recognizing also that uncertainty in global commodity markets reinforces the need to comprehensively deal with the commodity problematique, inter alia, the demand for commodities, supply capacities, commodity revenues and investments in commodity-dependent economies, while taking due account of the diversity of each country's individual situation and needs and the promotion of their sustainable development, and to strengthen the nexus between trade, food, finance, investment in sustainable agriculture, energy and industrialization,

Stressing the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues of the commodity economy and integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

Taking note of all relevant voluntary initiatives aimed at improving transparency in commodity markets and mitigating the impact of excessive price volatility,

Underlining the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, and in this regard, taking note of the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and urging the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on world commodity trends and prospects prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;[80]

2. *Underlines* the need for further efforts to address excessive commodity price volatility, in particular by assisting producers, especially small-scale producers, in managing risk;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to address the factors that create structural barriers to international trade and impede, inter alia, diversification, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, limited access to financial services resulting in scarce resources for investing in the commodity sector, weak infrastructure, particularly as regards both the cost and availability of transportation and storage, and lack of skills in producing and marketing alternative products;

4. *Calls for*, in that regard, the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations with a development-oriented outcome that ensures, inter alia, greater market access for products from developing countries;

5. *Also calls for* a coherent set of policy actions at the national, regional and international levels to address excessive price volatility and support commodity-dependent developing countries in mitigating negative impacts, in particular by facilitating value addition and enhancing their participation in commodity and related product value chains, by supporting large-scale diversification of these economies and by encouraging the use and further development of market-oriented risk management tools, instruments and strategies;

6. *Recognizes* the potential for innovation, productivity improvements and promotion of non-traditional exports in most commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, and calls for enhanced support by the international community as well as exchanges of experience in these areas within the framework of South-South economic cooperation;

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[78] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[79] Coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as a joint report to the Group of Twenty (G-20).

[80] A/66/207.

7. *Calls upon* the international community to work closely with commodity-dependent economies to identify trade-related policies and instruments as well as investment and financial policies as key elements of the development strategies of those economies;

8. *Underlines* the importance of increased investments in infrastructure as a means of promoting agricultural development and enhancing commodity diversification and trade, and urges the international community to assist commodity-dependent developing countries and to invest in and support research and development of agricultural productivity;

9. *Expresses concern* over the large-scale land acquisitions in developing countries by, among others, transnational corporations, that incur risk to development efforts, stresses the importance of promoting responsible international investment in agriculture, urges the Committee on World Food Security to finalize the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to continue its research and analysis on this issue;

10. *Stresses* that technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at improving the commodity export competitiveness of producers is particularly important, especially in Africa, and invites the donor community to provide necessary resources for commodity-specific, financial and technical assistance, in particular for human and institutional capacity-building, as well as infrastructure development of developing countries, with a view to reducing their institutional bottlenecks and transaction costs and enhancing their commodity trade and development in accordance with national development plans;

11. *Also stresses* that the Aid for Trade initiative should aim to help developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from World Trade Organization agreements and, more broadly, to expand their trade;

12. *Underlines* the important contribution of the commodities sector to rural development, in particular to providing rural employment and income, and to the efforts for achieving food security;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of international measures and national strategies to improve the performance of the agricultural sector, including the functioning of markets and trading systems, to ensure a better supply-side response from producers, in particular small farmers, in order to incentivize them to take the risks inherent in investing in increased and diversified production;

14. *Stresses* the importance of managing excessive price volatility, including, inter alia, through the development of appropriate non-trade-distorting tools at the international level and the improvement of transparency in the international market;

15. *Recalls* the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate organs of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Marrakesh Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;[81]

16. *Encourages* developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards the goal of realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;[82]

17. *Calls upon* international financial institutions and development banks to assist developing countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, in managing the effects of excessive price volatility;

18. *Reaffirms* that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the management of public and private sector revenues in developed and developing countries derived from all commodities and commodities-related industries, including final processed goods, in support of development;

20. *Also recognizes* the important contributions of the Common Fund for Commodities and other international commodities organizations, and encourages them, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant bodies, to continue to strengthen coordination among themselves and study ways to establish greater stability in the commodities market as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets and reliability of supply, enhancing diversification and addition of

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[81] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[82] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

value, improving the competitiveness of commodities, strengthening the market chain, improving market structures, broadening the export base and ensuring the effective participation of all stakeholders;

21. *Stresses* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its partners, in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships and within their respective mandates, should continue to engage actively in collaborative research and analysis of the commodity problematique and related capacity and consensus-building activities with a view to providing regular analysis and policy advice relevant to the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

22. *Underlines* the urgent need for the provision of, and access to, trade finance to commodity-dependent developing countries, given the tightened access to all types of credit and noting debt sustainability;

23. *Stresses* the importance of the continuing substantive consideration of the sub-item entitled "Commodities", and decides to include the sub-item in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report presenting an updated assessment of commodity trends and prospects, ways to strengthen coordination among international commodities organizations and other relevant international organizations and the causes of excessive commodity price volatility.

RESOLUTION 66/191

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/439, para. 15)[83]

66/191. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and its resolutions 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, 57/250, 57/272 and 57/273 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/230 of 23 December 2003, 59/225 of 22 December 2004, 60/188 of 22 December 2005, 61/191 of 20 December 2006, 62/187 of 19 December 2007, 63/239 of 24 December 2008, 64/193 of 21 December 2009 and 65/145 and 65/146 of 20 December 2010, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/34 of 26 July 2002, 2003/47 of 24 July 2003, 2004/64 of 16 September 2004, 2006/45 of 28 July 2006, 2007/30 of 27 July 2007, 2008/14 of 24 July 2008, 2009/30 of 31 July 2009, 2010/26 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/38 of 28 July 2011,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[84]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[85]

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[86]

Taking note of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 10 and 11 March 2011,[87]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[88]

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General on innovative mechanisms of financing for development,[89]

Recalling the progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[90]

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including the turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

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[83] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[84] See resolution 60/1.

[85] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[86] See resolution 65/1.

[87] A/66/75-E/2011/87.

[88] A/66/329.

[89] A/66/334.

[90] A/64/884.

1. *Reaffirms* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[91] in its entirety, its integrity and its holistic approach, and recalls the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and to address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Also reaffirms* that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to advance and strengthen the global partnership for development as the centrepiece of cooperation in the years ahead, as reaffirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[92] the Monterrey Consensus,[91] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[93] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[84] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[94] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals";[86]

4. *Recalls* the importance of the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development, as spelled out in the Monterrey Consensus;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the implementation of the commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law;

6. *Recognizes* that the mobilization of financial resources for development and the effective use of all of those resources are central to the global partnership for development, including in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and also recognizes that the mobilization of domestic and international resources and an enabling domestic and international environment are key drivers for development;

7. *Recalls* the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight, and reiterates that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters;

8. *Expresses deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizes that there is a need to promote the recovery, and acknowledges that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments;

9. *Recalls* that the ongoing fight against corruption at all levels is a priority, reaffirms the need to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all its manifestations in order to reduce obstacles to effective resource mobilization and allocation and to prevent the diversion of resources away from activities that are vital for development, recalls that this requires strong institutions at all levels, including, in particular, effective legal and judicial systems, and enhanced transparency, recognizes the efforts and achievements of developing countries in this regard, notes the increased commitment of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[95] and in this regard urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information, and in this regard notes that strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including through support and technical assistance to developing countries to enhance their capacities;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for more effective government involvement so as to ensure an appropriate regulation of the

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[91] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[92] See resolution 55/2.

[93] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[94] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[95] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

market that promotes the public interest, and also recognizes the need to better regulate financial markets;

12. *Recognizes* that a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, emphasizes the need to pursue, at the national level and in a manner consistent with national laws, appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks through which to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, and to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while improving income growth and distribution, raising productivity, empowering while improving empowerment of women, and protecting labour rights and the environment, and reiterates the importance of ensuring that the benefits of growth reach all people by empowering individuals and communities;

13. *Reiterates* that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development is an essential component for the implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session, to organize a special event in 2012 on the financing of social development;

14. *Notes* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services; calls upon developing countries to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights; and stresses the importance of enhancing efforts to mobilize investment from all sources in human resources and physical, environmental, institutional and social infrastructure;

15. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

16. *Emphasizes* the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize their flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, and that the successful conclusion of the Doha Round with a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome would provide much-needed impetus to international trade and contribute to economic growth and development;

17. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

18. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, reiterates that official development assistance can play a catalytic role in assisting developing countries in removing constraints on sustained, inclusive and equitable growth by, inter alia, enhancing social, institutional and physical infrastructure, promoting foreign direct investment, trade and technological innovations, improving health and education, fostering gender equality, preserving the environment and eradicating poverty, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

19. *Also stresses* the need to strengthen and support South-South cooperation, while stressing further that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and calls for the effective implementation of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009;[96]

20. *Recognizes* that human development remains a key priority, that human resources are the most precious and valuable asset that countries possess, and that the realization of full and productive employment and decent work for all is essential, and reiterates the importance of investment in human capital, inter alia, in health and education, through inclusive social policies, in accordance with national strategies and priorities;

21. *Considers* that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources

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[96] Resolution 64/222, annex.

of financing, and, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources of financing for development achieved to date, stresses the importance of scaling up present initiatives and developing new mechanisms, as appropriate;

22. *Takes note* of the ongoing discussions on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, and requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to organize a special event on innovative mechanisms of financing for development with the participation of relevant stakeholders during the substantive session of 2012 of the Council;

23. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries for promoting their economic growth and development;

24. *Also emphasizes* that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining in this regard the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges that sovereign debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investments, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting, in particular, the poor and vulnerable;

25. *Stresses* that the financial and economic crisis has highlighted the need for reform as well as added new impetus to ongoing international discussions on the reform of the international financial system and architecture, including on issues related to mandate, scope, governance, responsiveness and development orientation, as appropriate, and in this regard encourages continued open, inclusive and transparent dialogue;

26. *Notes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis, in order to ensure a full return to growth with quality jobs, to reform and strengthen financial systems and to create strong, sustainable and balanced global growth;

27. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems and the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness as complements to national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

28. *Reaffirms* the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and in this regard takes note of recent important decisions on the reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, and reiterates the importance of the reform of the governance of those institutions for delivering more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;

29. *Also reaffirms* that the United Nations funds and programmes and the regional commissions, and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates, have an important role to play in advancing development and protecting development gains, in accordance with national strategies and priorities, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and further reaffirms its determination to continue to take steps for a strong, well-coordinated, coherent, effective and efficient United Nations system in support of the Goals;

30. *Further reaffirms* the need to further intensify the engagement of regional commissions in the financing for development follow-up process, including through the provision of technical advice and analyses to be made available to Member States;

31. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring a strengthened, and more effective, intergovernmental inclusive process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up;

32. *Acknowledges* the efforts undertaken to strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, and reiterates that the modalities of the process should be reviewed, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 65/145;

33. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraph 90 of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[94] to consider the need to hold a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013, and in this regard decides to hold informal consultations with a view to taking a final decision on the need for such a conference by 2013;

34. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Development Office of the Secretariat, and encourages the Office, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, to continue its work in accordance with its mandate;

35. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process for carrying out the financing for development follow-up;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference", and requests the Secretary-General to submit, under the item, an annual analytical assessment of the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and of the

present resolution, which is to be prepared in full collaboration with the major institutional stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 66/192

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440, para. 32),[97] by a recorded vote of 165 to 8, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Gabon, Panama, Tonga

66/192. Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009 and 65/147 of 20 December 2010 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[98] in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[99] especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[100]

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195 and 65/147,

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 65/147, it requested the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Noting the observation of the Secretary-General that the experience of the United Nations Compensation Commission in handling claims for compensation for environmental damage resulting from the unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq may be of some value in terms of defining environmental damage in a case such as the present oil slick, in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it,

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[97] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

[98] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[99] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[100] Ibid., annex II.

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/147 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;[101]

2. *Reiterates*, for the sixth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant, for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give further consideration to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to explore the value of the experience of the United Nations Compensation Commission in terms of defining environmental damage in a case such as the present oil slick, in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it;

7. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

8. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

9. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, and reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance, in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

10. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[101] A/66/297.

RESOLUTION 66/193

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440, para. 32)[102]

66/193. International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 60/216 of 22 December 2005 and 63/279 of 24 April 2009,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Taking into consideration the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Acknowledging the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period 2008–2011, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing also the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region, and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking note of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Considering the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for coordination in addressing the needs of the region to introduce innovative approaches to the regional planning and social assistance to the population, especially to its most vulnerable groups, of the Semipalatinsk region aimed at improving their quality of life,

Emphasizing the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General[103] for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 63/279[103] and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

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[102] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

[103] A/66/337.

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing effectiveness of existing programmes;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/194

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440, para. 32)[104]

66/194. Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[105] and Agenda 21,[106] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[107] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[108] the Mauritius Declaration[109] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[110] the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[111] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[112]

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[113] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity[114] as an important instrument in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity,

Recalling also biodiversity-related conventions and organizations, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[115] the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,[116] the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,[117] the United Nations

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[104] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

[105] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[106] Ibid., annex II.

[107] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[108] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[109] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[110] Ibid., annex II.

[111] See resolution 55/2.

[112] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[113] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[114] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[115] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

[116] Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.

[117] Ibid., vol. 1651, No. 28395.

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recognizing the role of national legislation in the context of the protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems within national jurisdictions,

Recalling its annual resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries, including resolutions 61/105 of 8 December 2006, 64/71 and 64/72 of 4 December 2009, 65/37 A of 7 December 2010 and 65/37 B of 4 April 2011, as well as its resolution 65/159 of 20 December 2010 on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind, its resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, in which it decided to organize the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, its resolution 65/155 of 20 December 2010 entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", its resolution 65/161 of 20 December 2010 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions,

Noting the Manado Ocean Declaration adopted by the World Ocean Conference on 14 May 2009 and the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of 1995,[118]

Noting also the work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular on coral reefs and related ecosystems, and in this connection the outcome of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, including in relation to the updating and revision of the strategic plan for the post-2010 period,[119]

Noting further the request of the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting, to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to prepare, subject to the availability of financial resources, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the specific workplan on coral bleaching adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VII/5,[120]

Noting with concern that coral reef degradation will likely lead to the loss of significant economic and social benefits, in particular for States which are highly vulnerable to coral reef loss and have a low capacity to respond,

Recognizing that millions of the world's inhabitants depend on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development as they are a primary source of food and income, add to the aesthetic and cultural dimensions of communities and also provide for protection from storms, tsunamis and coastal erosion,

Expressing grave concern about the adverse impact of climate change and ocean acidification on the health and survival of coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world, including through sea-level rise, increase in the severity and incidence of coral bleaching, rising sea surface temperature and higher storm intensity, combined with the synergistic negative effects of waste run-off, overfishing, destructive fishing practices, alien invasive species and coral mining,

Maintaining that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, and calling upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Acknowledging that, in many countries, indigenous and local communities have a distinctive relationship with marine and coastal environments, including coral reefs and related ecosystems, and in some cases ownership thereof, in accordance with national legislation, and that such peoples have an important role to play in the protection, management and preservation of those reefs and related ecosystems,

Acknowledging also the leadership role in tropical marine ecosystems management provided by the International Coral Reef Initiative, a partnership of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming regional initiatives that address serious threats to coral reefs which are transboundary in nature and, in this regard, welcoming regional initiatives, including the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, the Pacific Oceanscape Framework, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape Project, the Western Indian Ocean Partnership, the West African Conservation Challenge and the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in the Americas,

Welcoming also the efforts of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system in the field of the protection of marine biodiversity and, in particular, coral reefs and related ecosystems,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development, requested in its resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010,[121]

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[118] See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.

[119] See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27.

[120] Ibid., annex, decision X/29, para. 74.

[121] A/66/298 and Corr.1.

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

1. *Urges* States, within their national jurisdictions and the competent international organizations, within their respective mandates, given the imperative for action, to take practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, including immediate and concerted global, regional and local action to respond to the challenges and to address the adverse impact of climate change, including through mitigation and adaptation, as well as of ocean acidification, on coral reefs and related ecosystems;

2. *Also urges* States to formulate, adopt and implement integrated and comprehensive approaches for the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems under their jurisdiction, encourages regional cooperation in accordance with international law regarding the protection and enhancement of the resilience of coral reefs, and in that respect calls upon development partners to support such efforts in developing countries, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building, environmentally sound technologies and know-how on mutually agreed terms, as well as the exchange of relevant scientific, technical, socioeconomic and legal information, to enable developing countries to take all action necessary for the protection of their coral reefs and related ecosystems, as appropriate;

3. *Further urges* States to identify relevant measures or tools for the protection of coral reefs within their national jurisdiction as an urgent sustainable development priority to address, inter alia, poverty eradication, food security, sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem conservation and, in this regard, encourages States to implement and integrate them, as appropriate, into broader sustainable development strategies;

4. *Stresses* the need to improve the understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits of coral reefs and related ecosystems, in order to develop and enhance measures to protect coral reefs, reinforce their resilience and strengthen the ability of coastal communities to adapt to environmental changes and coral reef degradation;

5. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to address, as appropriate, the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development;

6. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

RESOLUTION 66/195

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440, para. 32),[122] by a recorded vote of 141 to 2, with 33 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

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[122] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

66/195. Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/197 of 21 December 2009 on agricultural technology for development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[123] Agenda 21,[124] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[125] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[126] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[127]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[128]

Recalling its resolution 65/178 of 20 December 2010 on agriculture development and food security,

Noting the previous work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, highlighting the thematic focus on agriculture,

Acknowledging the work performed by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by the Secretary-General in 2008, and specifically its call for increased investment, as appropriate, in the development of agricultural technology as well as for the transfer and use of existing technologies, on mutually agreed terms, especially for smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, and recalling the World Summit on Food Security, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and underlining the importance of advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L'Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009,[129] which focused on sustainable agriculture development,

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document,[130] reaffirming its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have for the achievement of many of those goals, including for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability, while remaining concerned about the pace of progress to date in achieving those goals, particularly in the least developed countries and in Africa,

Taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[131] and recognizing the need to continue to work towards fulfilling the commitments made in the Programme of Action,

Acknowledging the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Stressing the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap and ensuring that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, related services and inputs and all the necessary productive resources, as well as to education and training, social services, health care, health services and financial services and access to and participation in markets,

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society and the private sector in furthering progress in developing countries, in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers, in particular rural women,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agri-food chains in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, the depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that agricultural research and sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to agricultural, rural and economic development, the adaptation of agriculture and food security and nutrition and help to mitigate the negative impact of climate change, land degradation and desertification,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development;[132]

2. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms to developing countries,

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[123] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[124] Ibid., annex II.

[125] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[126] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[127] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[128] See resolution 60/1.

[129] Available from www.ifad.org/events/g8.

[130] See resolution 65/1.

[131] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[132] A/66/304.

especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and to support national efforts to foster the utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information through suitable communication for development strategies and enable rural women, as well as men and youth, to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security;

3. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, especially their smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops, to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and to enhance food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies that take into consideration the specific needs of women and youth;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap to achieve equal access for women to labour-saving technologies, agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources to ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of women and youth;

5. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems and management practices, such as conservation agriculture and integrated pest management, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals, including livestock, more tolerant to diseases, pests and environmental stresses, including drought and climate change, in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

6. *Also underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology;

7. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in planning and taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices available and affordable to them;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with a focus on the research and development of technology that is affordable, durable and sustainable and that can be easily used by and disseminated to smallholder farmers, in particular rural women;

9. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to augment sustainable agriculture and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, and increase the use of agricultural technologies that have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage and transportation, especially in pressing environmental circumstances;

10. *Underlines* the instrumental role of agricultural technology, agricultural research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, as well as the sharing of knowledge and practices, in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, calls, therefore, upon Member States and encourages relevant international bodies to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international organizations and initiatives;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/196

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440, para. 32)[133]

66/196. Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter,

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[133] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and United Republic of Tanzania.

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on World Tourism,[134] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[135] and Agenda 21[136], the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism,[137] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[138] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[139] the Declaration of Barbados[140] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[141] the Mauritius Declaration[142] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[143] and the Istanbul Declaration[144] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[145]

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[146]

Recognizing the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of quality of life and its contribution to achieving sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Taking note of the outcome document of the first workshop on sustainable tourism, adopted by the Central American Tourism Council of the Central American Integration System on 24 June 2011, at a meeting organized in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization in Roatan, Honduras, in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Taking note also of the Joint Declaration, the Plan of Action and the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, adopted at the thirty-seventh meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System, held in San Salvador on 22 July 2011, and the Declaration of the Central American Tourism Council, adopted at its eighty-second meeting, held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, on 7 July 2011,

Emphasizing that sustainable tourism in Central America is a fundamental pillar of regional integration and an engine of social and economic development, given its significant contribution in terms of jobs, income, investment and hard currency, and therefore contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders, and the World Tourism Organization, to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in the region, including in the context of emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters, as well as for capacity-building in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population;

2. *Takes note* of the work of the Central American Governments in the implementation of existing programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region, in coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, and welcomes their contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in this regard;

3. *Encourages* the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to continue to support sustainable tourism with policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect the natural and cultural heritage, especially their ecosystems and biodiversity and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments to this end;

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[134] A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

[135] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[136] Ibid., annex II.

[137] A/55/640, annex.

[138] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[139] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[140] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[141] Ibid., annex II.

[142] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[143] Ibid., annex II.

[144] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[145] Ibid., chap. II.

[146] See resolution 65/1.

4. *Recognizes* the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, and to strengthen the development of ecotourism, taking into account the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, while maintaining the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities and small and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on developments related to the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

RESOLUTION 66/197

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.1, para. 16)[147]

66/197. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, as well as its resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009 and 65/152 of 20 December 2010 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[148] Agenda 21,[149] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[150] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[151] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[152] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[153] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus[154] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[155]

Recalling further its decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012,[156]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[157]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on its second session,[158] and endorses its decision 2/1, entitled "Process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development", as contained in chapter VI of the report;

3. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development shall be held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and recommends for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda of the Conference as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State or Government;

5. *Decides* that the Conference shall be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four high-level round-table sessions, to be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

6. *Also decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

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[147] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[148] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[149] Ibid., annex II

[150] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[151] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[152] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[153] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[154] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[155] See resolution 65/1.

[156] See resolution 64/236, para. 20.

[157] A/66/287.

[158] A/CONF.216/PC/9.

7. *Notes* the need to expedite the process for conclusion of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference as early as possible in 2012 and, in this regard, notes the decision of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to initiate informal consultations on this matter to be concluded in a timely manner;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to actively engage in the preparatory process, and in the Conference itself, with a view to reaching a successful outcome of the Conference;

9. *Decides* that the third session of the Preparatory Committee shall be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro;

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objective and the two themes of the Conference can be addressed;

12. *Invites* Member States, observers and all relevant stakeholders, including the regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference, as agreed in the preparatory process by Member States;

13. *Encourages* Governments, in their national preparations for the Conference, to continue to actively involve and to coordinate inputs from all national agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the support of the United Nations development system, as appropriate, for national preparations for the Conference, upon the request of national authorities;

15. *Reiterates its deep concern* that the resources available in the voluntary Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development are insufficient to fund the participation of representatives from developing countries, as well as representatives of major groups, in the meetings of the preparatory process of the Conference and in the Conference itself;

16. *Urges* international and bilateral donors and other countries and entities in a position to do so to provide contributions to the voluntary Trust Fund for the Conference in a timely manner and requests the Secreary-General to make further efforts to use the limited resources in the Trust Fund in an efficient, effective and transparent manner in order to enhance the active participation of representatives from developing countries in the preparatory process of the Conference (comprising the remaining intersessional meetings, informal informal negotiations and the third session of the Preparatory Committee), and in the Conference itself, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General, when using the resources of the Trust Fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence and terminal expenses;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the Conference to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", taking into account the outcome of the Conference.

Annex I

Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Reports of the round tables.
10. Outcome of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closure of the Conference.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/236.

2. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

I. Organization of work

A

Plenary meetings

3. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will consist of a total of six high-level plenary meetings to be held, as follows:

> Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
> and from 3 to 6 p.m.
>
> Thursday, 21 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
> and from 3 to 6 p.m.
>
> Friday, 22 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
> and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Evening sessions may be held, if required. All plenary meetings will be held at the Riocentro Exhibition and Convention Center.

4. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established by the drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Statements will be limited to five minutes. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat, prepared in close consultations with the host country and the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

5. The formal opening plenary meeting, to be held during the morning of Wednesday, 20 June, will consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and of the agenda, the election of the President of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference, and other matters. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from the President of the Economic and Social Council and the nine major groups.

6. At the ceremonial opening of the Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, 20 June, during the afternoon plenary meeting, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

7. The closing plenary meeting, to be held during the afternoon of Friday, 22 June, is expected to conclude with the presentation of the summaries by the Rapporteurs of the high-level round tables and the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

B

Main Committee

8. A Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings except during the opening and closing meetings. The Main Committee would be seized with finalizing any outstanding matters.

C

High-level round tables

9. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will hold four high-level round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

> Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 4.30 to 7.30 p.m.
>
> Thursday, 21 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
> and from 3 to 6 p.m.
>
> Friday, 22 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10. The four high-level round-table sessions will have a common theme: "Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference".

11. Each high-level round table will have two Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Conference, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the Chairs of regional groups.

12. The outcomes of the round tables should be reflected in the summaries by the Rapporteurs, which should be submitted to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

13. The four round-table sessions will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature, with seventy seats each: up to fifty for Government delegations and at least twenty for other participants, including representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Member States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat to sign up for participation in one of the round tables in advance of the Conference, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above. The opening of the inscription

for participation in the round tables will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

14. Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the round tables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser.

15. The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting.

16. The proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in an "overflow room" which will be open to the media and accredited participants.

II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

17. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

III. Participants

A
Member States and observers

18. The Conference, including the plenary and informal meetings, will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

B
Institutional stakeholders

19. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

20. In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure. Online registration and accreditation forms will be available at the Conference website.[159]

C
Major groups

21. Non-governmental organizations and other major groups that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

22. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations and other major groups that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.[160]

IV. Secretariat

23. The Secretary-General of the Conference serves as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

V. Documentation

24. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

25. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

26. Summaries of the plenary meetings and high-level round-table discussions should also be included in the report of the Conference.

VI. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

27. Parallel meetings and other events, including a partnership forum and learning centres, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, if they are held in the main building. The partnership forum and learning centres will constitute an official part of the Conference. Interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis.

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[159] http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20.

[160] See decision 66/544.

VII. Side events

28. Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to sustainable development will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing special events and the calendar of those events will be made available at the Conference website.[159]

VIII. Media coverage

29. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, round tables and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available electronically at the Conference website.[159]

30. The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

RESOLUTION 66/198

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.2, para. 3)[161]

66/198. Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[162] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[163] the Mauritius Declaration[164] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[165] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[166] including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[167] held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010, General Assembly resolution 65/156 of 20 December 2010 and all its other previous resolutions on the subject, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy,[168]

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, prepared in response to the request contained in the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;[169]

2. *Also notes* the report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States;[170]

3. *Further notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[165]

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

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[161] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[162] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[163] Ibid., annex II.

[164] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[165] Ibid., annex II.

[166] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[167] See resolution 65/2.

[168] A/65/115.

[169] A/66/278.

[170] A/66/218.

6. *Also decides* to consider, at its sixty-seventh session, the reports of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States, issued for the sixty-sixth session.

RESOLUTION 66/199

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.3, para. 8)[171]

66/199. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 and 58/215 of 23 December 2003, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004, 60/195 and 60/196 of 22 December 2005, 61/198 and 61/200 of 20 December 2006, 62/192 of 19 December 2007, 63/216 and 63/217 of 19 December 2008, 64/200 of 21 December 2009 and 65/157 of 20 December 2010 as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Acknowledging the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 64/200 and 65/157;[172]

2. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was confirmed at its third session, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, as being the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster,[173] calls upon Member States, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their mandates, to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and requests the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

6. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat of the Strategy, including through the extension until 2015 of the post of Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to look, in an inclusive, open and transparent manner, into other measures to ensure that the secretariat of the Strategy can discharge its cross-cutting mandate with efficiency and effectiveness;

8. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Government of Japan to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction";

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include therein an update on what progress has been made and what the opportunities are for making further progress in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction more effectively across the whole United Nations system.

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[171] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[172] A/66/301.

[173] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

RESOLUTION 66/200

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.4, para. 9)[174]

66/200. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009 and 65/159 of 20 December 2010 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[175]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[176] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[177] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[178] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[179] the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention and of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,[180] and the outcomes of all the sessions, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[181] the Mauritius Declaration[182] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[183] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[184]

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II to the Convention under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

1. *Recalls* the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted in Cancun, Mexico, by the Government of Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010;[185]

2. *Recognizes* the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to further advancing climate change negotiations;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference and its follow-up;[186]

4. *Underlines* the importance of achieving an ambitious, substantive, holistic and balanced outcome through the ongoing negotiations at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that the Government of South Africa hosted the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011;

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[174] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[175] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[176] See resolution 55/2.

[177] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[178] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[179] See resolution 60/1.

[180] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2007/9/Add.1 and 2.

[181] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[182] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[183] Ibid., annex II.

[184] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[185] FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2010/12/Add.1 and 2.

[186] A/66/291, sect. I.

6. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

7. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

RESOLUTION 66/201

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.5, para. 8)[187]

66/201. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008, 64/202 of 21 December 2009 and 65/160 of 20 December 2010, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[188]

Concerned by the negative economic impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought, and in this regard welcoming the organization of the second United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, on the theme "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas", to be held by March 2013 at the latest,

Concerned also by the increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[189] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[190] while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Changwon City from 10 to 21 October 2011,

Taking note of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", which emphasized that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification serves as a tool for achieving, inter alia, food security, poverty eradication and sustainable development, for promoting sustainable land use in drylands, and for enhancing the scientific process so that desertification, land degradation and drought issues are better understood, and acknowledging the comprehensive work carried out by the focal point and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in organizing the high-level meeting,

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 65/160 and on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[191]

2. *Expresses deep concern* about the critical situation in the Horn of Africa region, which is experiencing one of the worst droughts in history, and underlines that this situation highlights the need for the effective implementation of the Convention and its ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),[192] through short-, medium- and long-term measures;

3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and emphasizes the need to implement the decisions adopted at the session;

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[187] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[188] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[189] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[190] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[191] See A/66/291, sect. II.

[192] A/C.2/62/7, annex.

4. *Also welcomes* the effort by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to find lasting solutions with respect to the governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism, as a follow-up to various external assessments undertaken, including the 2009 report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[193] with a view to better servicing the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Recommends* the strengthening of the advisory role of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology, through their recommendations, in order to monitor effectively the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. *Notes* the continuing need for strengthening the scientific basis of the Convention and the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification, land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the Convention;[194]

7. *Also notes* the efforts under way for the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification;

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in further enhancing resource allocation during future replenishments, to consider increasing allocations to the land degradation focal area, depending on the availability of resources;

9. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of these stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

10. *Reaffirms its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention, with a view to addressing causes of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building;

11. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

12. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2017, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session;[195]

13. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2012–2013 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies when submitting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

14. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/202

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.6, para. 7)[196]

66/202. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009 and 65/161 of 20 December 2010 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[197]

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the progress of work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[198]

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[193] See A/64/379.

[194] See ICCD/COP(10)/31/Add.1, decision 20/COP.10.

[195] Ibid., decision 32/COP.10.

[196] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[197] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[198] A/66/291, sect. III.

2. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of biological diversity;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of India to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety from 1 to 5 October 2012;

5. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

RESOLUTION 66/203

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.7, para. 8)[199]

66/203. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking into account Agenda 21[200] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[201]

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[202] and its principles,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[203]

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[204]

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997[205] and in the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,[206]

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Noting that 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session and the decisions contained therein;[207]

2. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the work of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

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[199] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[200] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[201] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[202] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[203] See resolution 60/1.

[204] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[205] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[206] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

[207] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/66/25).

5. *Welcomes* the approval of the programme of work and the budget for the period 2012–2013;

6. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

7. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 26/1 of 24 February 2011 on international environmental governance[207] and of the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome;[208]

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session".

RESOLUTION 66/204

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.8, para. 8)[209]

66/204. Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[210] Agenda 21,[211] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[212] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[213] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[214]

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009 and 65/164 of 20 December 2010 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[215]

Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz", and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development",

Taking note of the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which was held on 20 April 2011, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day by discussing ways to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and sharing national experiences on criteria and indicators for measuring sustainable development in harmony with nature,

Noting the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[216]

Acknowledging the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on ecosystems,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of statistical basic data under the three pillars of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

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[208] UNEP/GC.26/18, annex.

[209] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Georgia, Guyana, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[210] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[211] Ibid., annex II.

[212] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[213] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[214] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[215] Resolution 37/7, annex.

[216] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the second report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[217]

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 23 April 2012, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to discuss the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth's ecosystem;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 23 April 2012, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making use of the existing information portal on sustainable development maintained by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge, and existing national legislation, taking into account that such a portal will be launched by 2012;

5. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

6. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

7. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work with other relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, experts and the academic community, as appropriate, both to identify new ways and means to overcome the limitations of gross domestic product with regard to sustainable development and to better measure the environmental degradation resulting from human activity;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/205

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.9, para. 7)[218]

66/205. Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains, and noting, in this regard, the Bishkek Mountain Platform,[219] the outcome document of the Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005, 62/196 of 19 December 2007 and 64/205 of 21 December 2009,

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[217] A/66/302.

[218] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

[219] A/C.2/57/7, annex.

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21[220] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[221] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of fifty countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and one hundred and thirteen organizations from major groups, as an important multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting also the Global Change and the World's Mountains Conference, held in Perth, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2010, the Lucerne World Mountain Conference, held in Lucerne, Switzerland in 2011, and its regional assessment reports on progress in sustainable mountain development since 1992 and its Call for Action, and the International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development, held in Kathmandu in 2011,

Acknowledging that despite the progress that has been made in promoting sustainable development of mountain regions, poverty, food insecurity, social exclusion and environmental degradation are still high,

Acknowledging also the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[222]

2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's fresh water, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;

3. *Recognizes* that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of fresh water in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures;

4. *Also recognizes* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;

5. *Encourages* greater consideration of sustainable mountain development issues in intergovernmental discussions on climate change, biodiversity loss and combating desertification in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[223] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[224] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa[225] and the United Nations Forum on Forests;

6. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;

7. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

9. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and watershed degradation, the frequency and scale of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining and agriculture and the consequences of climate change and loss of biodiversity are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation and the restoration

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[220] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[221] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[222] A/66/294.

[223] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[224] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[225] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators, and notes that International Mountain Day is devoted in 2011 to the theme "Mountains and forests", as a contribution to the observance of the International Year of Forests, 2011;

11. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the local economy, and appreciates the important role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the United Nations system in promoting sustainable agricultural development and forestry and its beneficial impact on sustainable mountain development through its field programme, normative activities and support to international processes;

12. *Expresses deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries and urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains, and, in this regard, notes with appreciation the Second World Landslide Forum, which was organized by the International Consortium on Landslides and hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in October 2011, and the course on disaster risk management in mountain areas of the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas, organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Turin, Italy;

13. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to develop or improve disaster risk management strategies to cope with the increasing adverse impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flows and earthquakes;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the adverse impact of climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies and subsequently implement adequate measures to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

15. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

16. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

17. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

18. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions, as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments, and encourages Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including gender-disaggregated data, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

19. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy, programmes and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

20. *Recalls with appreciation* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity;[226]

21. *Invites* States and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity, including through the establishment of appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and an appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional mechanism;

22. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other collaborative approaches;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of the exchange of best practices, information and appropriate environmentally sound technologies for sustainable mountain development, and

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[226] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/27.

encourages Member States and relevant organizations in this regard;

24. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high levels of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship that mountain communities face, and, in this respect, invites Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

25. *Underlines* the need to explore a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

26. *Encourages* the further development of sustainable agricultural value chains and the improvement of access to and participation in markets for mountain farmers and agro-industry enterprises, with a view to substantially increasing the income of farmers, in particular smallholders and family farmers;

27. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socioeconomic benefits to local communities, and the fact that consumer demand is increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism;

28. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities, but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

29. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches where the States concerned agree to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

30. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps[227] which promotes constructive new approaches to the integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as the Declaration on Population and Culture,[228] the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps,[229] cooperation with other convention bodies on relevant subjects and activities in the context of the Mountain Partnership;

31. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,[230] adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

32. *Further notes with appreciation* the work of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among the eight member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush to foster action and change for overcoming the economic, social and physical vulnerability of mountain peoples;

33. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

34. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and enhancing higher and continuing education on mountain issues in order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas, and stresses also the importance of promoting educational and advocacy programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels, to enhance awareness of sustainable development issues in mountain regions and of the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas and to take full advantage of the opportunities provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December in this regard;

35. *Encourages* Member States to collect at the local, national and regional levels, as appropriate, disaggregated scientific data on mountain areas through systematic monitoring, including of trends in progress and change, based on relevant criteria, to support interdisciplinary research

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[227] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.

[228] Available from www.alpconv.org/theconvention/index_en.

[229] Available from www.alpconv.org/climate/index_en.

[230] Available from www.carpathianconvention.org/text.

programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

36. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21,[220] including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[221] taking into account the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

37. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twentieth session, in 2013, at which "mountains" will be one of the thematic clusters to come under revision;

38. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity,[224] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[225] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[223] the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps[227] and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;[230]

39. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

40. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts to improve strategic cooperation among the institutions and initiatives dealing with mountain development, such as the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative, the International Mountain Society, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

RESOLUTION 66/206

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/440/Add.10, para. 8)[231]

66/206. Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007 and 64/206 of 21 December 2009 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and its resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[232]

2. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development, and recognizes the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect;

4. *Invites* Member States, as well as the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders, to use the opportunity offered by the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All to raise global awareness of the importance of new and renewable sources of energy and low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the environment-friendly use of traditional energy resources, as well as the promotion of access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services, and notes in this regard the initiative of the Secretary-General "Sustainable Energy for All";

5. *Notes with appreciation* regional and multilateral mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and

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[231] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[232] A/66/306.

integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy, such as the PetroCaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme, the energy initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, Energy+, the European Union Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development, the Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative on Clean Energy for All in Africa, the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation, the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, the Global Bioenergy Partnership, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, the Clean Energy Ministerial and the Union of South American Nations strategy on energy;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".

RESOLUTION 66/207

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/441, para. 11)[233]

66/207. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010 and all other previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/21 of 27 July 2011 and all other previous resolutions of the Council on human settlements,

Recalling further the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[234] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[235] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[236] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,[237] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[238] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[236] and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[239]

Expressing concern about the continuing increase in the number of slum dwellers in the world, despite the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Taking note of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[240] in particular paragraph 77 (*k*), in which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum dwellers, with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development, and encouraging UN-Habitat to continue providing the necessary technical assistance,

Taking note also of resolution 23/9 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled "Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target",[241]

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[233] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

[234] See resolution 55/2.

[235] See resolution 60/1.

[236] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[237] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[238] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[239] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[240] See resolution 65/1.

[241] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/66/8), annex, sect. B.

Recognizing the negative impacts of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

Welcoming with appreciation the important contribution of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Welcoming the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of Italy and the city of Naples to host the sixth session of the World Urban Forum from 1 to 7 September 2012,

Recognizing the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals,

Taking note of resolution 23/10 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled "Future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor",[241]

Recalling its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, in which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for its consideration at its sixty-sixth session,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 65/165, it encouraged the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and in discussion with all the partners of the Habitat Agenda, to consider the possibility of integrating the two themes of "housing finance systems" and "sustainable urbanization" into the preparatory process for Habitat III,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[242] on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)[243] and on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);[244]

2. *Decides* to convene in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda", which should build on the Habitat Agenda,[237] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[238] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[234] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[245] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[236] and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits;

3. *Acknowledges*, in this regard, the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

4. *Emphasizes* that the Conference and the preparatory process should take full advantage of planned meetings by aligning with the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and with the sixth and seventh sessions of the World Urban Forum, and encourages the regular regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings to support the activities of the preparatory process, taking into account that the Conference and the preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner;

5. *Decides* to consider before the end of 2012 the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in a most efficient and effective manner;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

7. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities, in accordance with national legislation, to enumerate

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[242] See A/66/326.

[243] A/66/281.

[244] A/66/282.

[245] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

the populations living in slums in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set, with the support of the international community, voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum dwellers, in line with resolution 23/9 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;[241]

8. *Invites* UN-Habitat to provide, within its current budget and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, or its subsequent strategic plan, technical and advisory assistance to Governments and regional and local authorities wishing to assess their slum population levels and trends, set voluntary national, regional and local 2020 targets, prepare national, regional and local slum prevention and upgrading strategies and plans, formulate and implement slum upgrading and housing programmes and monitor the progress of implementation, and to report periodically to the Governing Council and the General Assembly;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, and takes note of the conclusions of the midterm review of the implementation of the plan submitted to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session;[246]

10. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work on the strategic plan for 2014–2019 in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an open and transparent manner, setting realistic and achievable goals for the period it covers;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[247] and encourages UN-Habitat to move this process forward, in cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

12. *Notes* the request made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 23/10[241] that the Executive Director, in building on the lessons learned from the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and slum upgrading facility programmes, shift the focus of the work of UN-Habitat in the area of human settlements financing towards strengthening its normative approaches to urban economy and the promotion of finance for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor, while taking into account geographical and regional balance, as well as the request to explore as expeditiously as possible and to select, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in the urban upgrading and housing finance sectors;

13. *Reiterates its encouragement* to UN-Habitat to continue, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, its existing cooperation on issues related to cities and climate change and to continue to play a complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

14. *Stresses* the importance of timely action by UN-Habitat in response to natural and human-made disasters, in particular through its work in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict housing and infrastructure needs through its normative and operational work as part of the continuum from emergency relief to recovery and to urban development through effective urban planning;

15. *Reiterates its support* for the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all, approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007[248] and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,[249] respectively, and reaffirmed by the Governing Council in its resolution 23/12 of 15 April 2011;[241]

16. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

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[246] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.3.

[247] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.

[248] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I, sect. B.

[249] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/64/8), annex I, sect. B.

RESOLUTION 66/208

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/442, para. 17)[250]

66/208. Culture and development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, and 65/166 of 20 December 2010, concerning culture and development,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity[251] and the Action Plan for its implementation,[252] on 2 November 2001, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[253] as well as other international conventions of that organization that acknowledge the important role of cultural diversity for social and economic development, and welcoming the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity at the thirty-sixth session of the General Conference,

Recognizing that culture is an essential component of human development, represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for economic growth and ownership of development processes,

Acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contributor to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

Recalling the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action[254] on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

Recalling also the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation,

Recognizing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

Noting with satisfaction that, in its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", the General Assembly emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in that respect, encouraged international cooperation in the cultural field, aimed at achieving development objectives,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[255] and, in this regard, acknowledging the work undertaken by United Nations agencies to optimize the contributions of culture to sustainable development,

Acknowledging the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development and of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Recognizes* that culture contributes to the development of innovative creative capacities in people and is an important component of modernization and innovations in economic and social life;

3. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

(*a*) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools;

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[250] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[251] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[252] Ibid., annex II.

[253] Ibid., *Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3–21 October 2005*, vol. 1 and corrigenda, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 41.

[254] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[255] A/66/187.

(*b*) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into social, environmental and economic development policies and strategies at all levels;

(*c*) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural industries, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sector for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(*d*) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties to it, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;[253]

(*e*) To enhance women's active share in cultural decision-making with men and to undertake activities that promote women's empowerment and the perception of attitudes and a culture favourable to equality;

(*f*) To preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(*g*) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as a key element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(*h*) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property,[256] the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and the return of cultural property,[257] in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of cultural heritage and products, recognizing the importance of intellectual property rights in sustaining those involved in cultural creativity;

(*i*) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries for the development and consolidation of cultural industries, cultural tourism and culture-related microenterprises and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, as well as in mastering information and communications technologies and in gaining access to new technologies on mutually agreed terms;

5. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to assess how best to optimize the contribution of culture to development, including through information-sharing, exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study, and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to take into consideration the contribution of culture to the achievement of development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;

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[256] As defined in article 1 of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806).

[257] In line with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806).

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution and to assess, in consultation with relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the feasibility of various measures, including a possible United Nations conference, to take stock of the contribution of culture to development and to formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development and, in this context, takes note of the annual ministerial review on the theme "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" to be held by the Economic and Social Council in 2013;

10. *Encourages* Member States to share with the Secretary-General information and lessons learned on the contribution of culture to the achievement of development as a contribution to the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Culture and development".

RESOLUTION 66/209

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/442, para. 17)[258]

66/209. Promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/2 of 26 April 2011,

Recalling also its resolutions 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005 and its previous resolutions on public administration and development,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[259]

Emphasizing the need to improve the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration,

Emphasizing also that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the need for capacity-building as a tool to promote development, and welcoming the cooperation of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions with the United Nations in this regard,

1. *Recognizes* that supreme audit institutions can accomplish their tasks objectively and effectively only if they are independent of the audited entity and are protected against outside influence;

2. *Also recognizes* the important role of supreme audit institutions in promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration, which is conducive to the achievement of national development objectives and priorities as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in promoting greater efficiency, accountability, effectiveness, transparency and efficient and effective receipt and use of public resources for the benefit of citizens;

4. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts of 1977[260] and the Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence of 2007,[261] and encourages Member States to apply, in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, the principles set out in those Declarations;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations institutions to continue and to intensify their cooperation, including in capacity-building, with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in order to promote good governance by ensuring efficiency,

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[258] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

[259] See resolution 55/2.

[260] Adopted by the Ninth Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, Lima, 17–26 October 1977.

[261] Adopted by the Nineteenth Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, Mexico City, 5–10 November 2007.

accountability, effectiveness and transparency through strengthened supreme audit institutions.

RESOLUTION 66/210

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/442/Add.1, para. 8)[262]

66/210. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/199 of 19 December 2007, 63/222 of 19 December 2008, 64/210 of 21 December 2009 and 65/168 of 20 December 2010 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence imply that the economic performance of a country is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders and that maximizing in an equitable manner the benefits of globalization requires responses to globalization to be developed through a strengthened global partnership for development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming its strong support for fair and inclusive globalization and the need to translate growth into poverty reduction and, in this regard, its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy is entering a challenging new phase with significant downside risks, including turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Globalization and interdependence: sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for a fair and more equitable globalization for all, including job creation",[263]

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirms* the need to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in enhancing the global partnership for development, with a view to creating a supportive global environment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, including accelerating efforts to deliver and fully implement existing global partnership for development commitments;

3. *Recognizes* that the scaling-up of successful policies and approaches in the implementation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals needs to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development;

4. *Also recognizes* that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations and that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space;

5. *Further recognizes* that policies which link economic and social development can contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries with a view to guaranteeing that the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations maximize their benefits from economic growth and development;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report on the sub-item entitled "Role

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[262] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[263] A/66/223.

of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence".

RESOLUTION 66/211

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/442/Add.2, para. 8)[264]

66/211. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007 and 64/212 of 21 December 2009,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and 2009/8 of 24 July 2009,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[265]

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[266]

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session,[267]

Recalling its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,[268]

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Concerned that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that for the majority of the poor the promise of science and technology remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing the Network of Centres of Excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[269]

Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(*a*) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(*b*) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(*c*) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(*d*) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

(*e*) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(*f*) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

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[264] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[265] See resolution 60/1.

[266] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I and A/60/687.

[267] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11* (E/2011/31).

[268] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[269] A/66/208.

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. *Notes* that full and equal access to and participation in science and technology for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[266] and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies;

7. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

8. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects, where feasible, by mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

9. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

10. *Reiterates its call for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.

RESOLUTION 66/212

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/442/Add.3, para. 9)[270]

66/212. Development cooperation with middle-income countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations major international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration[271] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[272] as well as the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions,

Reaffirming its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007, entitled "Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", in which it recognized that middle-income developing countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication and that efforts to address those challenges should be supported in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, including through support to the effective development of comprehensive cooperation policies,

Recalling its resolutions 63/223 of 19 December 2008 and 64/208 of 21 December 2009,

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[270] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[271] See resolution 55/2.

[272] See resolution 60/1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[273]

2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of development cooperation with middle-income countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on development cooperation with middle-income countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of the session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence" the sub-item entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries".

RESOLUTION 66/213

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/443/Add.1, para. 10)[274]

66/213. Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[275] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[276] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2011,

Taking note also of the report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[277]

Recognizing the important contribution of civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the preparatory process for the Conference,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[278]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard, invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;[276]

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the

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[273] A/66/220.

[274] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[275] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[276] Ibid., chap. II.

[277] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1).

[278] A/66/134.

Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme at their 2011 annual sessions to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action within their respective programmes of work, welcomes with appreciation the adoption of a resolution by the Assemblies of States members of the World Intellectual Property Organization to mainstream the relevant parts of the Istanbul Programme of Action into various programmes of the organization, also welcomes the decision of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to mainstream the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the secretariat and its intergovernmental machinery, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and multilateral organizations to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, including the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the development of a road map to coordinate the activities of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

12. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

13. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to least developed countries, building on the existing international initiatives;

15. *Recalls* that a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status is vital to ensure that those countries are eased onto a path towards sustainable development without any abrupt disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects;

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to establish, in consultation with Member States and the Secretary-General, an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard, expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

18. *Stresses* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General for the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and

coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and to this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of least developed countries in partnership with the relevant part of the United Nations, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries;

19. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be provided with the necessary support to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recognizes that the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as requested in paragraph 155 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, will facilitate, inter alia, consideration by the Assembly of the ongoing resource requirements of the Office of the High Representative;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

RESOLUTION 66/214

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/443/Add.2, para. 7)[279]

66/214. Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008, 64/214 of 21 December 2009 and 65/172 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[280]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[281]

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[282] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[283]

Recalling also its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, on 21 and 22 October 2009,[284]

Taking note also of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration[285] as an outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and Other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, organized jointly by the Government of Mongolia and the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and held in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011,

Taking note further of the communiqué of the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2011,[286]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Expressing concern that inadequate transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure remains a major obstacle to trade and inhibits growth in landlocked developing countries,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

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[279] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[280] See resolution 55/2.

[281] See resolution 65/1.

[282] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[283] Ibid., annex I.

[284] A/64/856, annex.

[285] E/ESCAP/67/22, annex.

[286] A/66/392, annex.

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries";[287]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[288] to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that development partners, including international financial and development institutions, have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade, have serious capacity-building needs in the area of trade and transport facilitation, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems which prevent them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Invites* Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity, and strengthen analytical capacities to assist in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade, and, in this regard, encourages enhanced regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

10. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

11. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked

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[287] A/66/205.

[288] See resolution 63/2.

developing countries to external shocks, through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

12. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

13. *Calls upon* development partners to implement effectively the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

14. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

15. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

16. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private-sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment so as to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

17. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and to implement effectively, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, towards assisting in the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

20. *Urges* landlocked developing countries to sign and ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

21. *Decides* to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action and paragraph 32 of the Declaration on the midterm review, preceded, where necessary, by regional and

global as well as thematic preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner; underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process; recalls that, also in accordance with the aforesaid paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative is designated as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparatory review process; and notes that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory review process and the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

22. *Also decides* to take a decision, at its sixty-seventh session, on the organizational aspects, venue, duration and dates of the comprehensive ten-year review conference on the Almaty Programme of Action and of possible intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings, to be held in 2014 in a most effective manner;

23. *Encourages* Member States, including development partners, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference, as well as the participation of landlocked developing countries in the preparatory process and in the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and on the progress made in the preparatory process for the comprehensive ten-year review conference;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".

RESOLUTION 66/215

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/444/Add.1, para. 10)[289]

66/215. Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007, 63/230 of 19 December 2008, 64/216 of 21 December 2009 and 65/174 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[290] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day[291] and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[292]

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[293] adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries with a main aim of enabling half the number of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development",

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development,[294] and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011 entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

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[289] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[290] See resolution 55/2.

[291] United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals have been using, since 2008, a poverty line of US$1.25 a day.

[292] See resolution 60/1.

[293] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[295]

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[296] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[297]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[298]

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the ongoing adverse impacts of the multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling that the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council will be "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the theme "Full employment and decent work for all";[299]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

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[294] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

[295] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[296] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[297] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[298] See resolution 65/1.

[299] A/66/221.

3. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

4. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

6. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

10. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard recognizes the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating the Education for All partners and in promoting the development of sector-wide education policies by, inter alia, elaborating pedagogical tools for grass-roots organizations and policymakers;

11. *Recognizes* the role of other specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

12. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and notes other initiatives such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,[300] that make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

15. *Resolves* to work to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly, and invites Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

16. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

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[300] A/63/539, annex.

17. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

18. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional and invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measures which better reflect this multidimensionality;

19. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices of programmes and policies which address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and in this regard takes note of the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting, held in Tokyo on 2 and 3 June 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

20. *Reiterates its call* to the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

21. *Recalls* the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide details on the implementation of the plan of action to Member States;

22. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, and in that regard reiterates its decision, in resolution 63/230, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene, at its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012–2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

23. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

24. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, in this context, stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment with a focus on youth unemployment;

25. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

26. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[301] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

27. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

28. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of effort;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/216

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/444/Add.2, para. 9)[302]

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[301] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[302] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

66/216. Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005, 62/206 of 19 December 2007 and 64/217 of 21 December 2009, and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,[303]

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[304] and Platform for Action[305] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[306]

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[307] the 2005 World Summit[308] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[307] which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

Recalling the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[309] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[310] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[311] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[312] and the outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[313] the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS,[314] the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,[315] the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries[316] and the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs,[317]

Welcoming the full operationalization of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on 1 January 2011, noting that its establishment and the conduct of its work should lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations, and recognizing its role to assist Member States and the United Nations system in progressing more effectively and efficiently towards the goals of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health-care information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's full enjoyment of human rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunities for receiving an education and for achieving economic and political empowerment,

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[303] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[304] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[305] Ibid., annex II.

[306] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[307] See resolution 55/2.

[308] See resolution 60/1.

[309] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[310] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[311] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[312] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[313] See resolution 65/1.

[314] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[315] Resolution 66/2, annex.

[316] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[317] See resolution 63/1.

Reaffirming the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015, and reaffirming also that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technology and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allowing women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Reaffirming also the significant contributions that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;[318]

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[304] and Platform for Action[305] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[306]

3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication and the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[309] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[311]

5. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts and provide adequate resources to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including through eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women's capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue to increase, as appropriate, the participation of civil society, including women's organizations, in Government decision-making in national development policy areas;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, in mediation and peacebuilding efforts and in the rebuilding of post-conflict society, inter alia, through promoting women's capacity, leadership and engagement in political and economic decision-making;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the adoption by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of appropriate measures to identify and address the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices and the food crisis, and the challenges posed by climate change for women and girls, and of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the

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[318] A/66/219.

United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

10. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and to also strengthen the mechanisms needed to measure effectively the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

11. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender-equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development strategies, to ensure alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies, and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

12. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in the formulation of national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

13. *Also encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen capacities for gender mainstreaming by allocating adequate financial and human resources to national women's machineries as well as to and within line ministries, establishing and/or strengthening dedicated units for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and providing capacity development for technical staff, and developing tools and guidelines;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and donor countries to strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and to develop and strengthen methodologies and tools for this purpose as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender-equality results, as appropriate, and encourages donors to mainstream a gender perspective in their practices, including joint coordination and accountability mechanisms;

15. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies designed to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as part-time work, and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers, to provide care facilities for children and other dependants, and to ensure that both women and men have access to maternity or paternity, parental and other forms of leave and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

16. *Expresses deep concern* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls, reiterates the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and the benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

17. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers to, as well as eliminate stereotypic attitudes towards, gender equality at work, and to initiate positive steps towards promoting equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value;

18. *Urges* Governments to develop, adequately resource and implement active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas;

19. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, conditions and wages, and to promote access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement gender-sensitive legislation and policies that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

21. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

Women[319] and conventions of the International Labour Organization;

22. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by giving them equal access to financial instruments, providing them with training and advisory services in business, administration and information and communications technology, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by financial institutions;

23. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to all types of financial services and products, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, regardless of their economic and social status, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

24. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

25. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

26. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of education and ensure their equal access to all levels of education;

27. *Urges* Member States to adopt and review legislation and policies to ensure women's equal access to and control over land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, land reform programmes and land markets, and to take measures to implement those laws and policies;

28. *Urges* Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender-equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns so as to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

29. *Recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums, to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

30. *Also recognizes* the central role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food and nutritional security is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

31. *Further recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, and their traditional knowledge, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

32. *Expresses concern* at the overall expansion of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and the fact that women and girls are still the most affected by HIV and AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden and that they are more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV and AIDS, and taking into account that despite substantial progress, the 2010 deadline of universal access has not been met, calls upon Governments and the international community to urgently scale up responses towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support and, in line with the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[314] to ensure that national responses to HIV and AIDS meet the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS across their lifespan;

33. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development,[320] by integrating this goal into strategies for attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[307]

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[319] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[320] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

34. *Urges* Governments and all sectors of society to promote and to pursue gender-based approaches to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases based on data disaggregated by sex and age in their effort to address the critical differences in the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which affect people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, as noted in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,[315] and notes that poor populations and those living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently, because, inter alia, women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of caregiving;

35. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving child and maternal health, and in this context calls upon States to implement their commitments to preventing and reducing child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and welcomes in that regard the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the reduction in the number of maternal deaths and deaths of the newborn and children under age 5;

36. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda;

37. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

38. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the financial resources necessary to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

39. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

40. *Stresses* the importance of improving and systematizing the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, and of developing gender-sensitive indicators that are specific and relevant with respect to supporting policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impact, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

41. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain in accordance with national development strategies, and welcomes the work of UN-Women with United Nations country teams in assisting Member States, at their request, in integrating a gender perspective into national development policies and strategies, in accordance with their national priorities, and stresses its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system so as to ensure that the commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming translates into effective action throughout the world;

42. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to further improve their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender-equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

44. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

RESOLUTION 66/217

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/444/Add.3, para. 8)[321]

66/217. Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, 60/211 of 22 December 2005, 62/207 of 19 December 2007 and 64/218 of 21 December 2009,

Stressing that human resources development lies at the heart of economic, social and environmental development and that health and education are at the core of human resources development,

Stressing also that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Welcoming the considerable efforts made over the years, yet recognizing that many countries continue to face formidable challenges in developing a sufficient pool of human resources capable of meeting national economic and social needs and that the formulation and implementation of effective human resources strategies often require resources and capacities not always available in developing countries,

Stressing that human resources development is even more critical in view of the current global challenges, including the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the global financial and economic crisis, in order to tackle the negative effects of the global crisis, and set the basis for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and recovery,

Recognizing that the benefits of human resources development are best realized in national and international environments that support equal opportunity, access to education and non-discrimination and maintain an enabling environment for job creation,

Recognizing also that the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the global financial and economic crisis continue to diminish the ability of many countries, especially developing countries, to cope with and address human resources development challenges and to formulate and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, and stressing that the brain drain continues to be a severe problem in many developing and transitioning countries, undermining efforts in the area of human resources development,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that education is the key to promoting the development of human potential, equality and understanding among peoples, as well as to sustaining economic growth and eradicating poverty, and recognizing also that, to achieve those ends, it is essential that quality education be available to all, including indigenous peoples, girls and women, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development, and the need for continued support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[322]

2. *Calls upon* Member States to place human resources development at the core of economic and social development and develop short-, medium- and long-term strategies to effectively enhance their human resources capacities, as educated, healthy, capable, productive and flexible workforces are the foundation for achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

3. *Stresses* the need for Member States to emphasize and integrate human resources development into national development strategies, including national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in order to address structural and multidimensional challenges to enhancing national productive capacities and to ensure that human resources development implications are taken into account by all national development stakeholders;

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[321] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[322] A/66/206.

4. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to adopt cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms to identify human resources development needs in the medium and long term for all sectors of the economy and to formulate and implement policies and programmes to address those needs;

6. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on physical and social infrastructure, including education, in particular skills upgrading and vocational training in areas such as science and technology, including information and communications technology, as well as in capacity development, health and sustainable development;

7. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen comprehensive social protection systems, to adopt policies that strengthen existing safety nets and protect vulnerable groups and to take other appropriate actions, including boosting domestic consumption and production, recognizes that social protection floors, defined according to national priorities and the individual circumstances of Member States, can provide systemic approaches to address poverty and vulnerability and can contribute significantly to successful human resources development strategies, acknowledges in this regard that many developing countries lack the necessary financial resources and capacity to implement such countercyclical measures, and in this regard recognizes the need for continued mobilization of additional domestic and international resources, as appropriate;

8. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to consider implementing, and the States members of the International Labour Organization to implement, policies consistent with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and their obligations under all relevant ratified conventions of the International Labour Organization, and recalls the importance of promoting decent work for all and of increasing quality jobs, including through measures aimed at ensuring occupational health and safety and through working relationships based on effective social dialogue;

9. *Stresses* that human resources development strategies should include measures to reduce unemployment and underemployment among young men and women and the long-term unemployed, who have been disproportionately affected by slow growth in jobs recovery, and to integrate underutilized human resources into the labour market through policies that promote skills development and productivity and reduce barriers to employment, particularly gender barriers, including by providing incentives for recruiting, retaining and retooling, assistance in job-finding and job-matching and vocational and on-the-job training, and by promoting, inter alia, youth entrepreneurship;

10. *Stresses also* the need for Member States to retain and further enhance national human resources by boosting job-rich recovery and promoting decent work, including by adopting policies and incentives that enhance labour productivity and stimulate private investment and entrepreneurship and that strengthen the role of labour administration and institutions in order to foster job creation and increase the participation of vulnerable groups, including workers in informal sectors;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to address the interlinkages among human resources development, energy and food security, agriculture and rural development, and encourages Member States to strengthen capacity in agriculture and rural development;

12. *Stresses* that sustainable development is dependent, inter alia, on healthy human resources, calls upon Member States to continue their efforts to strengthen national health systems, urges the further strengthening of international cooperation in the area of health, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health system strengthening, access to medicines, training of health personnel, transfer of technology and production of affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicine, and in this regard stresses that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, need to become more predictable and to be better aligned with national priorities and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, in particular in Africa, as well as the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which is a challenge of epidemic proportions, and their effects on human resources;

14. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations entities to support national efforts to build institutional capacities to address long-term national human resources development needs in addition to providing training to individuals;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community, including the private sector and relevant civil society actors, to provide and mobilize financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance, transfer of technology and supply of expertise from all sources, as appropriate;

16. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

17. *Stresses* the important contributions of the public and private sectors, respectively, in meeting national training and educational needs to support the efficient functioning of enterprises and matching the needs of a rapidly changing economy, and encourages the integration of those contributions, including through the greater use of public-private partnerships and incentives;

18. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels that will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, as well as science proficiency, including by providing tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education, and stresses the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

19. *Encourages* Governments to consider appropriate measures at the national level, such as upgrading human skills, better aligning educational and training systems to labour market needs, and strengthening labour institutions and regulations to respond to economic downturns;

20. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to maintain or consider enhancing measures to boost a job-rich recovery, such as policies and incentives to enhance labour productivity and stimulate private investment, besides making efforts to reduce budget deficits in the long term, as appropriate;

21. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration, and in this regard reiterates the need to consider innovative measures to maximize the benefits of migration while minimizing the negative effects of the migration of both highly skilled and low-skilled workers from developing countries;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the contribution of science, technological knowledge and innovation to human resources development in developing countries;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

RESOLUTION 66/218

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/445/Add.1, para. 9)[323]

66/218. Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/208 of 19 December 2007, 63/232 of 19 December 2008, 64/220 of 21 December 2009, 64/289 of 2 July 2010 and 65/177 of 20 December 2010, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009, 2010/22 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/7 of 18 July 2011,

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[324]

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Acknowledging the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing resolution 62/208,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2011,[325]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for

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[323] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[324] See resolution 65/1.

[325] Reports of the Secretary-General on the results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 (E/2011/112); the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009 (A/66/79-E/2011/107); the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits (E/2011/86); and the simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system (E/2011/88).

development of the United Nations system for 2009,[326] recalls the section of resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence and looks forward to its implementation, and notes the progress made in broadening and improving reporting, in line with paragraph 28 of resolution 62/208;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its sixteenth session,[327] and looks forward to the outcome of its seventeenth session, to be held in 2012;

4. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council decision 2009/214 of 22 July 2009 on operational activities for development and Council resolutions 2010/22 and 2011/7 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the further implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 as contained in Council resolution 2010/22 and for the guidelines for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2012 contained in Council resolution 2011/7;

5. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 63/232, the General Assembly decided to hold its next comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty-seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution 62/208, to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 of that resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/219

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/445/Add.2, para. 18)[328]

66/219. South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Recalling its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 64/221 of 21 December 2009 and other resolutions relating to South-South cooperation,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[329]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[330]

2. *Decides* to hold the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation from 22 to 25 May 2012, preceded by an organizational meeting on 3 May 2012 to elect the President and Bureau of the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee;

3. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at the session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation.

RESOLUTION 66/220

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/446, para. 24)[331]

66/220. Agriculture development and food security

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[332] particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[333] Agenda 21,[334] the Programme for the Further

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[326] A/66/79-E/2011/107.

[327] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/65/39).

[328] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[329] See resolution 60/1.

[330] A/66/229.

[331] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

[332] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[333] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[334] Ibid., annex II.

Implementation of Agenda 21,[335] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[336] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[337] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[338] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[339] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[340] the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[341] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[342] as well as its resolutions 64/224 of 21 December 2009 and 65/178 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling further the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action,[343] the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,[344] including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the number of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the goals set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[345]

Acknowledging the work undertaken by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

Welcoming the outcome of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 17 to 22 October 2011,

Noting the ongoing process of developing principles for responsible agricultural investment that respects rights, livelihoods and resources, as well as the inclusive process for the development of voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security,

Reiterating that the multiple and complex causes of the global food crisis in developing countries, especially for net food importers, and its consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long terms by national Governments and the international community, and remaining concerned that high and excessively volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and nutrition and to achieve the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the agreement to keep under regular review, by the Ministerial Conference and appropriate organs of the World Trade Organization, the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Marrakesh Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries,[346]

Stressing the need to increase investment in agriculture and rural development, including through international cooperation, with a view to increasing the agricultural production of developing countries, many of which have become net food importers,

Welcoming national, regional and international initiatives and commitments aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

Recalling the commitments made to achieve global food security and provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the financial and policy commitments set out in the Aquila Food Security Initiative,

Recognizing the importance of an enabling international and national environment to increase and sustain investment in the agriculture sector of developing countries and to create a more level playing field in agriculture through greater market access, a substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect in accordance with the mandate from the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization,[347]

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[335] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[336] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[337] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[338] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[339] See resolution 60/1.

[340] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[341] See resolution 65/1.

[342] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[343] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13–17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[344] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10–13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

[345] See resolution 55/2.

[346] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

Recognizing also that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressing that integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security in an environmentally sustainable way,

Recognizing further the importance and positive role of smallholder farmers, including women, cooperatives and indigenous and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the preservation, conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an important contribution to the achievement of food security, as well as in the implementation of development goals in such fields as employment policy, social integration, regional and rural development, agriculture and environmental protection,

Recognizing that smallholder farmers, including women and indigenous peoples, may not have the equitable access to tools, markets and land tenure rights that is needed for them to reach their productive potential,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities,

Reaffirming also the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food,

Stressing the importance of the preservation of the natural resource base for food security,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and nutrition,

Recognizing the need to strengthen international coordination and governance for food security through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the Committee on World Food Security is a central component, and reiterating that it is essential to enhance global governance, building on existing institutions and fostering effective partnerships,

Expressing concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger has reached nearly one billion, which is an unacceptable blight on the lives, livelihoods and dignity of many of the world's people, mostly in developing countries, and noting that the effects of long-standing underinvestment in food security, agriculture and rural development have recently been further exacerbated by the food, financial and economic crises, among other factors,

Remaining deeply concerned about starvation and the humanitarian disaster on an unimaginable scale being faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa,

Expressing concern about the negative impact of high and excessively volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, particularly on the poor and people in vulnerable situations, which has undermined the prospect of developing countries for economic growth and poverty alleviation, including the goal to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[348]

2. *Welcomes* the note by the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security on the progress made in implementing the reform of the Committee,[349] and urges Member States and encourages civil society and the private sector to strongly support such reform and the aims and endeavours of the Committee;

3. *Reiterates* the need to adequately and urgently address agriculture development and food security in the context of national, regional and international development policies, taking into account the importance of enhancing synergies between sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, food security, nutrition and development policies;

4. *Also reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that food security is a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing food security challenges and the eradication of poverty in relation to food security must be nationally articulated, designed, owned and led and built in consultation with all key stakeholders at the national level, and urges Member States, especially those that suffer from food insecurity, to make food security a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

5. *Acknowledges* that the achievement of food security and improved nutrition outcomes are closely interlinked, and underlines the need to make special efforts to meet the nutritional needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as those living in vulnerable situations, through targeted and effective programming;

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[347] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[348] A/66/277.

[349] See A/66/76-E/2011/102.

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of adopting forward-looking economic policies that lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development and which increase employment opportunities, promote agriculture development and reduce poverty;

7. *Remains deeply concerned* by food crises and their negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in the Horn of Africa and other vulnerable regions, and, in this regard, underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond in a coherent and effective manner to these crises;

8. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the Summit on the Horn of Africa Crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, which encouraged farmers and investors in agriculture to put more resources into agriculture in the high potential and arid and semi-arid lands to enhance food security and, in this regard, supported the Dry Land Initiative that was launched by six Horn of Africa countries to promote integrated rural development, as well as regional projects to address the underlying causes of vulnerability in drought-prone areas, with particular emphasis on pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and to promote disaster risk reduction, ecosystem rehabilitation and sustainable livelihood practices;

9. *Also welcomes*, in this context, the strong leadership shown by African countries in undertaking initiatives to address the challenges of sustainable agriculture development and to achieve food security, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, that can provide a framework through which support for agriculture and food security can be coordinated, and calls upon the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[350]

10. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment, desertification and land degradation, as well as extreme weather events, inter alia, have contributed to undermining the livelihoods of the poor and people in vulnerable situations in the Horn of Africa and other vulnerable regions, and calls for an integrated approach at all levels in the form of immediate and medium- and long-term actions to address food security and nutrition;

11. *Promotes* a significant expansion of research on food and agriculture, and its funding, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions, and promoting technology transfer, sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

12. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to high and excessively volatile prices in agriculture commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers and poor urban dwellers;

13. *Recognizes* the need to support a comprehensive and coordinated response to address the multiple and complex causes of the global food crisis, including the adoption of political, economic, social, financial and technical solutions in the short, medium and long terms by national Governments and the international community, including for mitigating the impact of high and excessively volatile food prices on developing countries; the relevant United Nations organizations have an important role to play in this regard;

14. *Underlines* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, and in this regard takes note of the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and urges the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

15. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of domestic, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder and women farmers in developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade-distorting special measures that are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing countries to enable them to increase their productivity and to compete on a more equal footing in world food markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

16. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets;

17. *Also stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme, and not to impose them in the future;

18. *Calls upon* Member States and the World Trade Organization to take measures to promote trade policies that would be capable of promoting further trade in agriculture products, identifying the obstacles to trade which have the most

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[350] A/57/304, annex.

serious impact on the world's poor and contributing to supporting small-scale and marginalized producers in developing countries;

19. *Recognizes* the urgency of, and reaffirms its commitment to, reaching an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations with a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome as a key action to improve food security;

20. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable such as food- and cash-for-work, cash-transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to include prevention and mitigation measures for the poor and smallholder farmers, particularly women in developing countries, appropriate to their national context and circumstances and in accordance with their capacities, especially when excessive food price volatility causes access and market disruptions in the short, medium and long term within the context of local, national, regional and international development policies, taking into account World Trade Organization rules and provisions;

22. *Supports* concrete initiatives aimed at improving protection for the most vulnerable against excessive price volatility through risk management strategies, tools and instruments, such as the development of the pilot project led by the Economic Community of West African States for a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve, consistent with annex 2 to the World Trade Organization agreements;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of smallholder farmers in developing countries, including women and local and indigenous communities, in ensuring food security and nutrition, reducing poverty and preserving ecosystems, and the need to assist their development;

24. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security, and in this regard calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

25. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the capacity of smallholder and women farmers as a strategy to enhance agriculture development and food security by promoting equitable access to land, water, financial resources and technologies in accordance with national legislation, as well as improving smallholder farmers' participation in and access to sustainable agriculture value chains and markets;

26. *Underlines* the need for substantial additional investment and better policies in support of sustainable agricultural development, especially smallholder agriculture, in order for many of the poorest countries to reach the poverty and hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals;

27. *Stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production to augment the availability and quality of food, including through long-term investment, equitable access of smallholder farmers, including women, to markets, credit and inputs, improved land-use planning, crop diversification, commercialization, development of an adequate rural infrastructure and enhanced market access for developing countries, as well as sound water management, including efficient irrigation, water harvesting and storage and the appropriate management of relevant facilities, and the development of strong agriculture value chains and investment in rural infrastructure, which are critical to accelerating progress in order to achieve the hunger-related Millennium Development Goals;

28. *Recognizes* the urgent need to finalize the negotiations on the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, which will underpin smallholder investment in agriculture;

29. *Also recognizes* the importance of agricultural investment, including foreign direct investment, through, inter alia, the private sector in enhancing agriculture development and food security as well as the need to promote responsible international investment in agriculture, and therefore calls for all investors to conduct agricultural practices in accordance with national legislation, taking into account national sovereignty over natural resources, environmental sustainability and the importance of promoting the well-being and improving the livelihood of local communities and indigenous peoples, as appropriate;

30. *Supports* an inclusive consultation process for the development and the broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhances food security and nutrition, and acknowledges that the first step of this consultation process will be to develop terms of reference that include the scope, purpose, intended recipients and structure of those principles as well as the format of the consultation process, taking into account existing frameworks, such as the principles for responsible agricultural investment developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank;

31. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

32. *Underlines* the need to achieve food security and nutrition through sustainable agriculture in a manner that addresses the multiplicity of social needs, without jeopardizing options for future generations;

33. *Also underlines* the need to continue to take into account sustainable agriculture development and food security as an integral part of the three pillars of sustainable development as identified at the 2005 World Summit (economic development, social development and environmental protection);

34. *Stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions and international trade, financial and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting and strengthening efforts towards agriculture development and food security and nutrition;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that a coordinated follow-up to the 2009 World Summit on Food Security is undertaken at the field level in the context of the resident coordinator system, taking into account the coordinated follow-up to major international conferences of the United Nations;

36. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to report, as part of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the reform of, and on progress made towards achieving the vision of, the Committee;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution and on the progress in the implementation of the outcome of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Agriculture development and food security".

RESOLUTION 66/221

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/446, para. 24)[351]

66/221. International Year of Quinoa, 2013

The General Assembly,

Noting that quinoa is a natural food high in nutritional value,

Recognizing that Andean indigenous peoples, through their traditional knowledge and practices of living well, in harmony with nature, have maintained, controlled, protected and preserved quinoa in its natural state, including its many varieties and landraces, as food for present and future generations,

Affirming the need to focus world attention on the role that quinoa biodiversity can play, owing to the nutritional value of quinoa, in providing food security and nutrition and in the eradication of poverty in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[352]

Recalling resolution 15/2011 adopted on 2 July 2011 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-seventh session,[353]

Recalling also the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action,[354] the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later[355] and the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[356]

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Affirming the need to heighten public awareness of the nutritional, economic, environmental and cultural properties of quinoa,

1. *Decides* to declare 2013 the International Year of Quinoa;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to

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[351] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guyana, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Seychelles, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[352] See resolution 65/1.

[353] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-seventh Session, Rome, 25 June–2 July 2011* (C 2011/REP).

[354] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13–17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[355] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10–13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

[356] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Year of Quinoa, in collaboration with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations, and also invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the General Assembly informed of progress made in this regard;

3. *Stresses* that any activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions and lend other forms of support to the Year, and invites non-governmental organizations, other relevant stakeholders and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to and support the Year.

RESOLUTION 66/222

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/446, para. 24)[357]

66/222. International Year of Family Farming, 2014

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 16/2011 adopted on 2 July 2011 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-seventh session,[358]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/178 of 20 December 2010 on agriculture development and food security,

Noting the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[359] adopted on 18 November 2009, expressing, inter alia, support for the special needs of smallholder farmers, many of whom are women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Affirming that family farming and smallholder farming are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food security,

Recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Decides* to declare 2014 the International Year of Family Farming;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming, in collaboration with Governments, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, also invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep the General Assembly informed of progress made in this regard, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the implementing agency should be met from voluntary contributions;

3. *Encourages* Member States to undertake activities within their respective national development programmes in support of the International Year of Family Farming.

RESOLUTION 66/223

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/447, para. 10)[360]

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[357] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

[358] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-seventh Session, Rome, 25 June–2 July 2011* (C 2011/REP).

[359] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[360] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

66/223. Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005, 62/211 of 19 December 2007 and 64/223 of 21 December 2009,

Reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[361]

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[362] notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[363] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010,[364] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Taking note of the further increase in the number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the United Nations, together with the private sector and all other relevant partners, can contribute in multiple ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations and academia, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalling that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full employment and social integration,

Noting that private sector partnerships can play an important role in support of the humanitarian assistance activities of the United Nations system, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory,

Recognizing the contribution of the private sector to the provision of resources and expertise on the policy environment, technical programmes, advocacy and communication, knowledge management and resource mobilization in many areas, in accordance with national legislation and development plans and priorities,

Noting that the financial and economic crisis, inter alia, has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, which in turn has led to broader private sector engagement in support of United Nations goals,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development, and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a gender perspective in global partnerships, welcoming in this context the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and taking note with appreciation of the joint United Nations Global Compact/UN-Women initiative "Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business",

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[361] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[362] See resolution 55/2.

[363] See resolution 60/1.

[364] See resolution 65/1.

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and taking note of the establishment of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States,

Noting with appreciation the advancement of the concept of corporate social responsibility through the United Nations Global Compact,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector in accordance with its General Assembly mandate to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[365] the report of the Joint Inspection Unit[366] and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon;[367]

2. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

3. *Also stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

4. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, where appropriate, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector, as appropriate and bearing in mind the activities undertaken by the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks;

6. *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, as well as stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies;

7. *Also recognizes* the need for effective accountability and transparency in the implementation of such public-private partnerships by the United Nations;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach, which places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, coherence, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations;

10. *Also encourages* the United Nations system to continue to find innovative and additional ways to achieve lasting impact by identifying and replicating successful partnership models and pursuing new forms of collaboration;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles and to create awareness of the many ways in which business can promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community;

12. *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

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[365] A/66/320.

[366] See A/66/137 and Corr.1.

[367] A/66/137/Add.1.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote effective implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, including through the effective implementation of the revised Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, thus promoting a culture of transparency and performance, and invites the Secretary-General to create an internal advisory group in the Secretariat, which will use innovative and cost-effective working methods to ensure coherent brand management across the United Nations and to make recommendations on partnership best practices and lessons learned;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

15. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation of the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact in partnerships, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of an annual United Nations Private Sector Forum since 2008;

17. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the introduction of the private sector track at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011;

18. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level and the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

19. *Acknowledges* the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which bring together United Nations entities to share best practices and lessons learned in order to improve partnerships and create conditions for effective scaling up;

20. *Notes* the progress made in further facilitating the collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector and enhancing transparency by the launching of the United Nations business website,[368] which links private sector resources with the needs of the United Nations system;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on specific progress on integrity measures, on the implementation of the revised United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector and on the strengthening of the United Nations Global Compact Local Networks.

RESOLUTION 66/224

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/448, para. 10)[369]

66/224. People's empowerment and development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern about the crippling effects of poverty, inequality and disparity all over the globe, and recognizing that people should be the focus of all plans, programmes and policies, at all levels,

Recognizing that the empowerment of people is essential to achieving development,

Appreciating the efforts of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, in articulating the linkages between people's empowerment and development,

1. *Notes* the proposal of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on integrating the interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements of people's empowerment and development, expressed as eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing inequality, mitigating deprivation, creating jobs for all, including excluded people, accelerating human development and fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with international law;

2. *Also notes* the offer of the Government of Bangladesh to convene an international conference on people's empowerment and development during the first half of 2012 to seek the views of Member States on the subject.

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[368] See business.un.org.

[369] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

RESOLUTION 66/225

Adopted at the 91st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/449, para. 11),[370] by a recorded vote of 167 to 7, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau. United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Panama, Tonga

66/225. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/179 of 20 December 2010, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/41 of 28 July 2011,

Recalling also its resolutions 58/292 of 6 May 2004 and 59/251 of 22 December 2004,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[371] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[372] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[372] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[373] and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Expressing its concern about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its grave concern about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

Expressing its concern about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip in the recent period, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people,

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[370] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Palestine.

[371] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[372] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[373] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

Taking note, in this regard, of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip,[374] and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

Aware also of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the need for the resumption and accelerated advancement of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[375] and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[376] as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, for the achievement of a final settlement on all tracks,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of settlements therein in the context of the road map, and calling in this regard for respect of the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Stressing the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,[377]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion, and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[373] and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all actions harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage

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[374] *Environmental Assessment of the Gaza Strip following the Escalation of Hostilities in December 2008-January 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.III.D.30).

[375] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[376] S/2003/529, annex.

[377] A/66/78-E/2011/13.

networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

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RESOLUTION 66/67

Adopted at the 73rd plenary meeting, on 5 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part I), para. 10)[1]

66/67. Tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 on the follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary,

Noting that the momentum created by the International Year has contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster prevention and management, social integration, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, and acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network,

Bearing in mind the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the International Year to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the successful observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, and also welcomes the growth and development of volunteerism since the International Year, in 2001;

2. *Acknowledges* that the tenth anniversary has provided the opportunity and impetus for an increased and unprecedented level of collaboration among Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, private sector partners and people from a broad cross-section of societies all over the world, and reaffirms the need for further efforts to achieve the goals of the International Year in the areas of the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteerism worldwide;

3. *Commends* the contributions from national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in disaster prevention and recovery, most recently evidenced by their performance in the aftermath of natural catastrophes in many parts of the world, such as mass landslides and floods in south-eastern Brazil and the devastating earthquake that struck eastern Japan in March 2011;

4. *Also commends* the increasing link between volunteerism and sports, which, through the invaluable contributions of national and international volunteers to the preparation and organization of major sport events such as the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, contributes to the promotion of the ideal of peace;

5. *Recognizes* the valuable contribution of volunteering, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help and other forms of civic participation, to social and economic development, thus benefiting society at large, communities and volunteer networks;

6. *Encourages* Member States to support the setting-up of knowledge and information platforms, as well as focal points at the international, regional, national and local levels, in order to foster the sharing of resources and good practices of volunteerism that could be adapted, implemented, replicated and scaled up on a sustained basis;

7. *Encourages* Member States and volunteers to take appropriate steps to enhance the protection of volunteers, and also encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion and management of volunteerism;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism in order to engage and benefit all segments of society, including women, children, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

9. *Acknowledges* the importance of civil society organizations to the promotion of volunteerism, and in that respect recognizes that strengthening the dialogue and interaction among Member States, the United Nations and civil society contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

10. *Takes note* that volunteerism contributes to human development, and invites Governments to integrate volunteering

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[1] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Yemen.

more fully into peace and development programmes and initiatives, which offer opportunities to build strong and cohesive volunteer coalitions around shared goals at the local, national, regional and international levels;

11. *Also takes note* of the actions taken by Governments to support and promote volunteerism, and reiterates its call upon them to continue such action;

12. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, recognizes the contributions of volunteers and volunteer organizations, and encourages their participation in future United Nations and other relevant international conferences;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of further involving all relevant partners, including civil society, and facilitating their coordination and cooperation towards creating an enabling environment where individuals can engage in volunteer activities and promoting the well-being of volunteers, welcomes in this regard the expanding involvement of the private sector in support of volunteerism, and encourages its further engagement through the expansion of corporate volunteering and employee volunteer activities;

14. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers as the focal point for the tenth anniversary of the International Year in support of Member States, including by co-hosting regional consultations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year, held in Quito, Ankara, Manila and Dakar, preparatory to the Global Volunteer Conference co-hosted with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, held in Budapest from 15 to 17 September 2011, as well as the Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 5 September 2011, and requests the United Nations Volunteers to continue their efforts to promote volunteerism, including through the mobilization of national and international volunteers and the development of newer and innovative recruitment modalities such as online volunteering;

15. *Emphasizes* that people-to-people relations are the core value of volunteerism, and encourages further efforts to build and strengthen networks among volunteers and all relevant partners at the national, regional and international levels, including the World Volunteer Web as a global networking hub;

16. *Welcomes* the active engagement of national committees and coordinating bodies in the promotion of the tenth anniversary of the International Year, and emphasizes the importance of further enhancing this global network for building their partnership and sharing experiences and good practices;

17. *Recognizes* the need to further strengthen the link between domestic volunteers and international volunteer-sending organizations in order to facilitate the globalization of volunteer opportunities;

18. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of volunteering to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for a people-centred, holistic approach to the promotion of volunteering;

19. *Also emphasizes* the important contribution of volunteering and the participation of individuals and communities to the achievement of sustainable development and related initiatives;

20. *Further emphasizes* that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement and leadership to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing youth to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

21. *Requests* Governments and the United Nations system to work together with other volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the security and protection of volunteers;

22. *Encourages* the preparedness of volunteer-involving organizations and volunteers for respecting national and local norms and customs in performing their responsibilities;

23. *Decides* that two plenary meetings devoted to the follow-up to the International Year and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary shall be held as follows:

(*a*) At the opening of the plenary meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on 5 December 2011, statements will be made by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the chairs of the five regional groups, the representative of the host country and the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers;

(*b*) Following the opening of the plenary meetings, the launch of the first *State of the World's Volunteerism Report*[2] will be held until 1 p.m., with the participation of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the chief author of the report and two selected United Nations Volunteers;

(*c*) At the plenary meeting to be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., statements will be made by Member States and those with a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;[3]

24. *Looks forward* to a full report on the marking of the tenth anniversary of the International Year, as well as recommendations to further integrate volunteering in peace and development during the next decade and beyond, bearing in mind the request to the Secretary-General to report on this

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.I.12.

[3] As listed in A/INF/65/5.

subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Social development".

RESOLUTION 66/121

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[4]

66/121. Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, adopted by the General Assembly on 26 July 2011,[5]

Recalling further the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[6]

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host in 2014 a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming also the participation of young representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of youth, especially girls and young women, in many parts of the world has been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be among the greatest global challenges facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

Recognizing that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to promote the interests of youth, including the full enjoyment of their human rights, inter alia, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

Recognizing also that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries, and calling for enhanced cooperation and concerted action to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that education can play in that respect,

1. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth,[7] including its fifteen interrelated priority areas, and calls upon Member States to continue its implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding";[8]

3. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth",[9] and welcomes the recent increased collaboration among the United Nations entities in the area of youth development;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that the attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity;

5. *Recognizes* that young people in all countries are both a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation, and affirms that investment in youth development

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[4] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

[5] See resolution 65/312.

[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[7] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[8] A/66/129.

[9] A/66/61-E/2011/3.

and education is crucial for sustainable social and economic development;

6. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, including through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, the transfer of appropriate technology, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements of efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration;

7. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities at all times, especially in times of crisis;

8. *Also urges* Member States to specifically address youth development in their economic and financial recovery measures by emphasizing youth employment and promoting entrepreneurship, volunteerism and the development of formal, informal and non-formal educational and training systems in line with the needs of young people and their societies, and encourages all relevant stakeholders, including academia, the private sector, trade unions and financial institutions, to promote social responsibility and to develop partnerships in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to promote the well-being of young people, particularly the poor and the marginalized, through comprehensive policies and action plans and, in particular, to address poverty, employment and social integration as fundamental aspects of their national development agendas, and encourages the international community and the United Nations system to support Member States in this regard;

10. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of young people in order to enable them to better participate in the global economy, and in this regard calls upon Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, to ensure universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and international cooperation, as well as to promote the development of locally relevant content and implement measures to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately and safely;

11. *Also stresses* that young people are particularly vulnerable in the labour market in times of crisis, and, in order to meet the needs of youth in a rapidly changing labour market, recognizes that promoting full employment, decent work and entrepreneurship requires investing in education, training and skills development for young women and men, strengthening social protection and health systems, applying internationally agreed labour standards, paying special attention to young people employed in the informal economy and the progressive and effective elimination of child labour;

12. *Recognizes* that youth employment and job opportunities for youth contribute to social stability, cohesion and inclusion and that States have an important role in addressing the demands of youth in this regard, notes that the Global Jobs Pact provides recommendations and policy options for States, and invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at enhancing employment for youth;

13. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges of girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against girls and young women and stereotypic roles of men and women that are preclusive of social development, by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

14. *Recognizes* the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis on the quality of life and health of young people, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote health education and health literacy among young people, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes in and out of schools and through public campaigns, as well as to increase the access of youth to affordable, safe and effective health care by paying special attention to, and raising awareness regarding, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases and sexual and reproductive health, as well as measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS;

15. *Urges* Member States to increase efforts, including to address the ongoing social impact of the crises, to improve the quality of education and promote universal access to education, particularly for young women, out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, young migrants and youth living with HIV and affected by AIDS, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that they can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including by appropriate access to scholarships and

other mobility programmes, non-formal education, and technical and vocational education and training, in order to further develop their contributions to societies as relevant actors to promote development;

16. *Also urges* Member States to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Further urges* Member States to take effective measures in conformity with international law to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism and incitement;

18. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to combat all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

19. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and, inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

20. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

21. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Youth within the existing resources of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat so as to meet the increasing demands on the Programme;

22. *Requests* that the United Nations entities enhance their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development through, inter alia, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon the United Nations entities and relevant partners to develop additional measures to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, particularly youth-led organizations.

RESOLUTION 66/122

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[10]

66/122. Promoting social integration through social inclusion

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[11] in which Heads of State and Government acknowledged the significant importance of promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, to meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note with appreciation of the study by the United Nations Children's Fund entitled *Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals*, released on 7 September 2010, which shows that an equity-focused approach to child survival and development, focusing on reaching the most deprived and vulnerable children, proves to be a practical and effective strategy for meeting the health Millennium Development Goals for children,

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[10] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[11] See resolution 65/1.

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to realizing the universal right to work, an adequate standard of living, necessary social services and social security,

Stressing that the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary to achieve poverty eradication and should be complemented, as appropriate, by effective social protection policies, including social inclusion policies,

Recognizing that the gains of economic growth should benefit also those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations,

Recognizing also that social inclusion policies and systems play a critical role in promoting an inclusive society, and are also crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion and inclusion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Reaffirming the important role of corporate social responsibility and accountability in contributing to an enabling environment to promote economic growth and social integration,

Recognizing that social inclusion policies also strengthen the democratic process,

Stressing that social inclusion policies should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations,

Acknowledging that the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations is crucial to formulating and implementing social inclusion policies that effectively achieve social integration, as appropriate,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting social integration, inter alia, through social programmes and support for the development of socially inclusive policies,

Stressing the importance of an enabling international environment, in particular enhanced international cooperation to support national efforts towards promoting social integration through social inclusion in every country, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building,

Expressing concern that, in times of economic and financial crisis and ongoing concern about energy and food insecurity, social exclusion can be exacerbated; in this regard sustainable and reliable social inclusion policies and programmes can play a positive role,

1. *Stresses* that States, which bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should prioritize the creation of a "society for all"[12] based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, the access to basic social services and the promotion of the active participation of every member of society, in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized situations, in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;

2. *Calls upon* States to promote a more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which employment has a key role, and social inclusion strategies which promote social integration ensuring social protection floors for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations, as defined by each country in accordance with its individual circumstances, including on a demand-driven basis, and the promotion and protection of their social and economic rights;

3. *Encourages* States to consider, when appropriate, the creation of national institutions or agencies for promoting, implementing and evaluating social inclusion programmes and mechanisms at the national and local levels;

4. *Also encourages* States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to continue monitoring progress towards the relevant Millennium Development Goals, in particular regarding their indicators, as their achievement is an essential element to shape and promote national policies for social inclusion;

5. *Invites* Member States, and encourages regional organizations, to support national efforts to achieve inclusive societies, in particular in developing countries, upon their request, by providing, inter alia, financial and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of sound social inclusion policies;

6. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social inclusion policies, promoting the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations in planning, implementing and monitoring processes, in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations;

7. *Invites* States, relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development

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[12] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 66.

and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations to exchange views and share information on sound social inclusion policies and best practices;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

9. *Decides* to consider the question further at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Social development".

RESOLUTION 66/123

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[13]

66/123. Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001, 58/131 of 22 December 2003, 60/132 of 16 December 2005, 62/128 of 18 December 2007, 64/136 of 18 December 2009 and 65/184 of 21 December 2010 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a significant factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit,

Noting with appreciation the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples and rural communities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Welcomes* the proclamation of the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives and the launch of the Year on 31 October 2011;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year of Cooperatives as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to social and economic development and to share good practices on the implementation of the activities carried out during the Year;

4. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to consider developing a road map or plan of action for the promotion of cooperatives for sustainable socioeconomic development beyond the International Year of Cooperatives and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session so as to ensure a focused and effective follow-up to the activities of the Year;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General to focus support on cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises that contribute directly to employment generation, poverty reduction and social protection, across a variety of economic sectors in urban and rural areas;

6. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives in order to enhance the growth and sustainability of cooperatives in a rapidly changing socioeconomic environment by, inter alia, providing a level playing field for cooperatives vis-à-vis other business and social enterprises, including appropriate tax incentives and access to financial services and markets;

7. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly

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[13] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[14] A/66/136.

on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit by, inter alia:

(*a*) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(*b*) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples, to fully participate, on a voluntary basis, in cooperatives and to address their social service needs;

(*c*) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement through joint consultative councils and/or advisory bodies and by promoting and implementing better legislation, research, sharing of good practices, training, technical assistance and capacity-building of cooperatives, especially in the fields of management, auditing and marketing skills;

(*d*) Raising public awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to employment generation and to socioeconomic development, promoting comprehensive research and statistical data-gathering on the activities, employment and overall socioeconomic impact of cooperatives at the national and international levels and promoting sound national policy formulation by harmonizing statistical methodologies;

8. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, while respecting the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

9. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, the growth of agricultural cooperatives through easy access to affordable finance, adoption of sustainable production techniques, investments in rural infrastructure and irrigation, strengthened marketing mechanisms and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

10. *Also invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, the growth of financial cooperatives to meet the goal of inclusive finance by providing easy access to affordable financial services for all;

11. *Encourages* Governments to intensify and expand the availability and accessibility of research on the operations and contribution of cooperatives and to establish methodologies for the collection and dissemination of comparable global data on and the good practices of cooperative enterprises, in collaboration with all stakeholders;

12. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to continue rendering support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, providing assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and promoting an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an overview of the activities that have been implemented during the International Year of Cooperatives.

RESOLUTION 66/124

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[15]

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[15] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

66/124. High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[16] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[17] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[18] in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in which it recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, and stressing the duty of Member States to achieve greater justice and equality for all, in particular persons with disabilities,

Noting that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population,[19] of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries,[20] and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular for developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010, by which it requested the Secretary-General to submit information on the implementation of the resolution, with a view to convening, within existing resources, a high-level meeting at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on strengthening efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities";[21]

2. *Decides* to convene a one-day High-level Meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 23 September 2013, the Monday before the start of the general debate of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", which shall be funded within existing resources, in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting should be as follows:

(*a*) The High-level Meeting will comprise a plenary meeting and two consecutive informal interactive round tables, the round tables to be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, and the themes for the round tables will be decided by the President of the Assembly in consultation with Member States;

(*b*) The opening plenary meeting will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an eminent person actively engaged in disability issues and a representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, both of whom will be chosen by the President of the Assembly;

(*c*) The Chairs of the round tables will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting;

(*d*) In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in each round table will include Member States, observers and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, as well as selected representatives of civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector;

4. *Further decides* that the High-level Meeting will result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document in support of the aims of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[18] and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and requests the President of the General Assembly to produce a draft text, in consultation with Member States, taking into account input from organizations of persons with disabilities, and to convene informal consultations, within existing resources, at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the Meeting;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider including in their delegations to the High-level Meeting persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination and the fact that there are disability and age diversities;

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[16] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[17] Resolution 48/96, annex.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[19] According to the *World Report on Disability*, published in 2011 by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability.

[20] General Assembly resolution 65/186 states that "persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries". The figure of 80 per cent, which originated from the United Nations Development Programme, was quoted in a discussion paper entitled "Disability and poverty: a survey of World Bank poverty assessments and implications" (Jeanine Braithwaite and Daniel Mont, SP discussion paper No. 0805, World Bank, February 2008).

[21] A/66/128.

6. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who will participate in the High-level Meeting;

7. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly, following appropriate consultations with Member States, to draw up a list of representatives of other non-governmental organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, relevant civil society organizations and the private sector who might participate in the High-level Meeting, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis and bring to the attention of the Assembly the finalized list;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector entities and other relevant stakeholders to consider supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular, to give a prominent role to delegates who are persons with disabilities and representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations from those countries, in order to promote the broadest possible participation, and requests the Secretary-General to take, within existing resources, all necessary measures in this regard, including the accessibility of the High-level Meeting;

9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the High-level Meeting, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person actively engaged in disability issues and the representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to speak at the opening plenary meeting, the identification of a representative of a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council active in disability issues to speak at the first round table and the identification of Chairs for the round tables, bearing in mind the level of representation and equitable geographical representation.

RESOLUTION 66/125

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[22]

66/125. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[23] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[24] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[25] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit[26] and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[27]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006),

Recalling its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/18 of 24 July 2008 on promoting full employment and decent work for all and Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration, and welcoming the decision of the Commission for Social Development to have "Poverty eradication" as the priority theme for the 2011–2012 review and policy cycle,

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[22] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

[23] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[24] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[25] See resolution 55/2.

[26] See resolution 60/1.

[27] See resolution 65/1.

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development",[28]

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including its objective of social protection, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,[29] in which the particular role of the Organization in promoting fair globalization and its responsibility to assist its members in their efforts were acknowledged, as well as in the Global Jobs Pact,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recognizing also that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives is being hindered by the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and the challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing the complex character of the current global food crisis and ongoing food insecurity, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology, and recognizing also that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen the food crisis,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as hunger, trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Recognizing the importance of the international community in supporting national capacity-building efforts in the area of social development, while recognizing the primary responsibility of national Governments in this regard,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Recognizing the need to enhance access to the benefits of trade, including agricultural trade, for developing countries in order to foster social development,

Recognizing also that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[30]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[23] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social

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[28] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

[29] A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

[30] A/66/124.

Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space of national Governments, in particular in the areas of social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies by, among other things, providing debt relief;

7. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has not been fully implemented in national and international policymaking and, although poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty;

9. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the first Decade has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[31] have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

11. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

12. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

13. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

14. *Also stresses* that stability in global financial systems and corporate social responsibility and accountability, as well as national economic policies that have an impact on other stakeholders, are essential in creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development;

15. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

16. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full

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[31] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

17. *Encourages* Governments to promote effective participation of people in civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as in the planning and implementation of social integration policies and strategies, in order to better achieve the goals of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work and social integration;

18. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

19. *Also reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and further reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

20. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, particularly against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and discrimination, including xenophobia, recognizes that violence increases challenges to States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, and further recognizes that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide present fundamental threats to societies and pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

22. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

23. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards;

24. *Also recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work, tripartism and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

25. *Encourages* States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the creation of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of these groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

26. *Stresses* the need to allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

27. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of enforcing labour law effectively with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

28. *Recognizes* that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[32] the World

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[32] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Programme of Action for Youth,[33] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[34] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[35] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[36]

29. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments to achieve equity, inclusion and stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

31. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure that people living in poverty have access to education, health, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

32. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

33. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

34. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour-market participation, invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, and urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

35. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

36. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and notes the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

37. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

38. *Acknowledges* the role that the public sector can play as an employer and its importance in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

39. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

40. *Recognizes* that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization, giving priority to agricultural and non-farm sectors, and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas, while paying special attention to the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in rural areas, as well as subsistence economies, to secure their safe interaction with larger economies;

41. *Also recognizes* the need to pay necessary attention to the social development of people in urban areas, especially the urban poor;

42. *Further recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further contributing to sustainable agricultural development and microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises and the participation and entrepreneurship of women as means to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

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[33] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[34] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[35] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[36] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

43. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[37] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[38]

44. *Also reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

45. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

46. *Also stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries;

47. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

48. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

49. *Urges* Member States and the international community to fulfil all their commitments to meet the demands for social development, including social services and assistance, that have arisen from the global financial and economic crisis, which particularly affects the poorest and most vulnerable;

50. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitments for Vaccines, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure the long-term stability and predictability of foreign aid;

51. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

52. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

53. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact, invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

54. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[39] to continue to be

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[37] See resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[38] A/57/304, annex.

[39] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

55. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and to address, inter alia, the impact of the world financial and economic crisis and the world food and energy crises on social development goals;

56. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

RESOLUTION 66/126

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[40]

66/126. Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007 and 64/133 of 18 December 2009, concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family and the preparations for, observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year,

Noting that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Aware that a major objective of the International Year is to address the major concern of strengthening the capacity of national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year beyond 2004,

Recognizing the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the field of the family, including their positive contribution to strengthening national capacities in family policymaking,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Noting that, in its resolution 59/111, the General Assembly decided to celebrate the anniversary of the International Year on a ten-year basis,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[41]

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. *Invites* Governments and regional intergovernmental entities to provide for more systematic national and regional

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[40] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russian Federation and Turkey.

[41] A/66/62-E/2011/4.

data on family well-being and to identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments, including the exchange of information on good policies and practices;

3. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to adopt holistic approaches to policies and programmes that address family poverty, social exclusion and work-family balance and that share good practices in those areas, and invites Member States to stimulate public debate and consultations on family-oriented and gender- and child-sensitive social protection policies, in accordance with the objectives of the International Year;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote policies and programmes supporting intergenerational solidarity at the family and community levels and geared to reducing the vulnerability of younger and older generations through various social protection strategies;

6. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

7. *Invites* Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues, and encourages the United Nations Programme on the Family, within its mandate, to assist Governments in this regard, including through the provision of technical assistance to build and develop national capacities in the area of formulating, implementing and monitoring family policies;

8. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

9. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

10. *Recommends* that United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the objectives of the International Year;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, including a description of the state of preparation for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at all levels;

12. *Decides* to consider the topic "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

RESOLUTION 66/127

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/454 (Part II), para. 35)[42]

66/127. Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[43] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[44] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009 and 65/182 of 21 December 2010,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[45]

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years old or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be greatest and most rapid in the developing world,

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[42] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

[43] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[44] Ibid., annex II.

[45] A/66/173.

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis,

Recognizing the essential contribution that the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place,

Noting that older women outnumber older men, and noting with concern that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from their gender-based roles in society, compounded by their age, disability or other grounds, which affect the enjoyment of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration[43] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[44]

2. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to place particular emphasis on choosing national priorities that are realistic, sustainable and feasible and have the greatest likelihood of being achieved in the years ahead and to develop targets and indicators to measure progress in the implementation process;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to further implement the Madrid Plan of Action as an integral part of their national development plans and poverty eradication strategies;

7. *Invites* Member States to identify key priority areas for the remainder of the first decade of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacity to address ageing;

8. *Recommends* that Member States increase awareness-raising of the Madrid Plan of Action, including by strengthening networks of national focal points on ageing, working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to seek increased attention for ageing issues;

9. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing;

10. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

11. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity regarding more effective data collection, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons;

12. *Also recommends* that States parties to existing international human rights instruments address the situation of older persons, where appropriate, more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders, in accordance with their mandates, to pay more attention to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, in their consideration of the reports or in their country missions;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure, as appropriate, conditions that enable families and communities to provide care and protection to persons as they age, and to evaluate improvements in the health status of older persons, including on a gender-specific basis, and to reduce disability and mortality;

14. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

16. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women;

17. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights where applicable;

19. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, gender or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, of women and of persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

20. *Further calls upon* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and policies to address these problems and their underlying factors;

21. *Decides* to designate 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe it in an appropriate manner;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action;

23. *Stresses* that, in order to complement national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of assistance and the provision of financial assistance;

24. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

25. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

26. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

27. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, and by institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

28. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues, especially in the review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action during the tenth anniversary of its adoption in 2012, and provide added resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

29. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its first review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

30. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

31. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons be taken into account in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[46]

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[46] See resolution 55/2.

32. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of resolution 65/182, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists during the first two working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group;

33. *Invites* States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Open-ended Working Group, as appropriate;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Open-ended Working Group, within existing resources;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the integration of older persons, including older women, in social development and the promotion of the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons.

RESOLUTION 66/128

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 26)[47]

66/128. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[48]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,[49] the International Conference on Population and Development,[50] the Fourth World Conference on Women[51] and the World Summit for Social Development[52] and their reviews,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and expressing the hope that it will robustly support national efforts to increase women's access to economic opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, including women migrant workers, and to end violence against women migrant workers, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011–2013,[53] which has among its six goals increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services, and the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

Welcoming also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-fifth session,[54] and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize women migrant workers' skills and education and fair labour conditions, and to facilitate their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force,

Recalling the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women, and noting that another high-level dialogue on the same theme will be held in 2013,

Welcoming the adoption of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its one-hundredth session, noting the importance of the early entry into force of Convention No. 189

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[47] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[48] See resolution 48/104.

[49] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[50] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[51] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[52] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[53] UNW/2011/9.

[54] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

and encouraging States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[55] to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,[56] and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[57] to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,[58] acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Stressing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recognizing also the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work, and contemporary forms of slavery, including all forms of forced labour, and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[59] to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Noting that the priority theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges",[60] and in this regard recognizing the role and contribution of rural women migrant workers towards poverty eradication and development in their communities,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

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[55] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[56] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38), part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

[57] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[58] CMW/C/GC/1.

[59] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[60] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15.

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions, and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[61]

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[57] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[62] the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[63] the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[64] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[65] as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and also encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;[66]

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled "Political economy of women's human rights", submitted to the Council at its eleventh session,[67] in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter illegal migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building, and victim protection and support, by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including

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[61] A/66/212.

[62] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[63] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[64] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[65] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[66] Resolution 64/293.

[67] A/HRC/11/6.

employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to emergency health care, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers and to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

17. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process, and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

18. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[68] to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

19. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the

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[68] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

20. *Encourages* Governments to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that such process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

21. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data-collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

(*a*) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(*b*) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(*c*) To support the improvement of macrodata on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, specifically with regard to access to justice for women migrant workers, highlighting the impact of legislation, policies and programmes on women migrant workers, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

RESOLUTION 66/129

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 26)[69]

66/129. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food and nutritional security in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, and concerned that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to land, water and other resources, their limited or lack of access to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[70]

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[69] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[70] A/66/181.

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(*a*) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(*b*) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(*c*) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(*d*) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(*e*) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(*f*) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(*g*) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices, to improve the health of rural women and children;

(*h*) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutritional security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(*i*) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(*j*) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(*k*) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(*l*) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(*m*) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(*n*) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by, inter alia, expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(*o*) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and women to engage in self-employment or participate in the labour market;

(*p*) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(*q*) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(*r*) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment;

(*s*) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(*t*) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(*u*) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy design and strategy development in rural areas;

(*v*) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal support;

(*w*) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men, and girls and boys;

(*x*) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media;

(*y*) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt gender-responsive rural development strategies, including budget framework and

relevant assessment measures, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food and nutritional security;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of women in rural areas, including indigenous women, into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/130

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 26)[71]

66/130. Women and political participation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[72] which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly, or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service,

Guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[73] which affirms human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world, and which states, inter alia, that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[74] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[75]

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading and coordinating action to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system, as well as in supporting all countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recognizing also the important contributions that women have made towards the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable Governments in many countries,

Stressing the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts, including in times of peace and of conflict and at all stages of political transition, concerned that many obstacles still prevent women from participating in political life on equal terms with men, and noting in that regard that situations of political transition may provide a unique opportunity to address such obstacles,

Recognizing the essential contributions that women around the world continue to make to the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security and to the full realization of all human rights, to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth, and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease,

Reaffirming that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Highly concerned that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women,

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[71] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia.

[72] Resolution 217 A (III).

[73] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[74] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[75] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

Recognizing the importance of empowering all women through education and training in government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and the need for Member States and the United Nations system to increase the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, and calls upon all States to implement it fully;

2. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process;

3. *Also calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of women, to accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women and, in all situations, including in situations of political transition, to promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to:

(*a*) Engaging in political activities;

(*b*) Taking part in the conduct of public affairs;

(*c*) Associating freely;

(*d*) Assembling peacefully;

(*e*) Expressing their opinions and seeking, receiving and imparting information and ideas freely;

(*f*) Voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

(*g*) Participating in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office and performing public functions at all levels of government;

4. *Calls upon* States in situations of political transition to take effective steps to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all phases of political reform, from decisions on whether to call for reforms in existing institutions to decisions regarding transitional governments, to the formulation of government policy, to the means of electing new democratic governments;

5. *Urges* all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[73] urges States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so, and urges States parties to the Convention to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;[76]

6. *Also urges* all States to take, inter alia, the following actions to ensure women's equal participation, and encourages the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their existing mandates, to enhance their assistance to States in their national efforts:

(*a*) To review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

(*b*) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;

(*c*) To strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;

(*d*) To promote awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;

(*e*) To develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership activities, and empower women to assume public responsibilities by developing and providing appropriate tools and skills, in consultation with women;

(*f*) To implement appropriate measures within governmental bodies and public sector institutions to eliminate direct or indirect barriers to and enhance women's participation in all levels of political decision-making;

(*g*) To accelerate the implementation of strategies, as appropriate, that promote gender balance in political decision-making, and take all appropriate measures to encourage political parties to ensure that women have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for all elective public positions;

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[76] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

(*h*) To improve and broaden women's access to information and communications technologies, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and to promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the responsiveness of these technologies to women's needs, including those of marginalized women;

(*i*) To investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates for political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offences and, to ensure accountability, take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible;

(*j*) To encourage greater involvement of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women of any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in decision-making at all levels, and address and counter the barriers faced by marginalized women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making at all levels;

(*k*) To encourage the promotion of programmes geared towards the sensitization and orientation of youth and children, in particular young women and girls, on the importance of the political process and women's participation in politics;

(*l*) To ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that equitable sharing of family responsibilities between women and men and reduction of the double burden of paid and unpaid work can help to create an enabling environment for women's political participation;

(*m*) To promote the granting of appropriate maternity and paternity leave in order to facilitate women's political participation;

(*n*) To take proactive measures to address factors preventing or hindering women from participating in politics, such as violence, poverty, lack of access to quality education and health care, and gender stereotypes;

(*o*) To monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in decision-making positions;

7. *Encourages* States to ensure an expanded role for women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in mediation and peacebuilding efforts, as called for in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

8. *Also encourages* States to appoint women to posts within all levels of their Governments, including, where applicable, bodies responsible for designing constitutional, electoral, political or institutional reforms;

9. *Further encourages* States to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia and as appropriate, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

10. *Encourages* States and relevant civil society organizations to support programmes that facilitate women's participation in political and other leadership activities, including peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and to promote public/private civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices on women's political participation in all phases of the political process, including in times of political change and reform;

12. *Notes with interest* the focus, inter alia, on the political participation of women, including the issues raised in the present resolution, in the work of the Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice;

13. *Encourages* States to disseminate the present resolution among all relevant institutions, in particular national, regional and local authorities, as well as among political parties;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages Governments to provide precise data on the political participation of women at all levels, including, where appropriate, information on the political participation of women in times of political transition.

RESOLUTION 66/131

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 26)[77]

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[77] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

66/131. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/138 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[78]

2. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth[79] and forty-sixth to forty-eighth[80] sessions;

3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the status of the Convention.

RESOLUTION 66/132

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1, para. 26)[81]

66/132. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 65/191 of 21 December 2010, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[82] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[83] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[84] the 2005 World Summit,[85] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[86] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the latest, on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session,[87]

Welcoming also the full operationalization of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on 1 January 2011,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

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[78] A/66/99.

[79] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/65/38).

[80] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/66/38).

[81] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

[82] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[83] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[84] See resolution 55/2.

[85] See resolution 60/1.

[86] See resolution 65/1.

[87] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[88]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[89] and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,[90] in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[91]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[92]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[82] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[83] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[93] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[94] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[95] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is

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[88] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[89] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[90] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[91] A/65/334.

[92] A/66/211.

[93] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[94] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[95] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the effective functioning of UN-Women in regard to its governance structure, as well as administration, budgeting and human resources;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and recognizing also that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, and welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

15. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system systematically to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of UN-Women to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

16. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

18. *Calls upon* intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

19. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and the provision of sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

20. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

21. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

24. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

25. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

RESOLUTION 66/133

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/456, para. 13)[96]

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[96] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zambia.

66/133. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[97] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-second session[98] and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-second session;[98]

2. *Welcomes* the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[99] and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[100] and welcomes in this context the convening and facilitation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of an intergovernmental commemorative event at the ministerial level as a recognition by States of the importance of respecting and upholding the values and principles enshrined in those two instruments;

3. *Also welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto[101] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-eight States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Notes* that seventy States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[102] and that forty-two States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Also re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Further re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to respond adequately to emergencies and thereby ensure a more predictable response to inter-agency commitments in case of emergency;

10. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies,

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[97] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/66/12).

[98] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/66/12/Add.1).

[99] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[100] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[101] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[102] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

12. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 65/133 of 15 December 2010 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

13. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the process of structural and management change, including the global needs assessment initiative, undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to consolidate the various aspects of the reform process, including the results-based management and accountability framework and strategy, and to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

15. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

16. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing number of attacks against humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

17. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

18. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

19. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

20. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in particular, welcomes, in this context, the series of dialogues with women and girls initiated by the Office, in this anniversary year, as an important move towards increasing understanding and improving the protection of women and girls, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on this issue;

21. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

22. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees;

24. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the

efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes an approach to sustainable and timely return that encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the implementation of such a framework to facilitate an effective transition from relief to development;

25. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts that an increasing number of States are making to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, recognizes the need to increase the number of resettlement places, invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[103] where appropriate and feasible, and, in this context, commends the efforts in launching the Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative in April 2011 by the Office and by those States that have responded generously in this respect;

27. *Also notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

28. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

29. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

30. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

31. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, whose generosity is appreciated, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees who remain vulnerable members of society;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the existing and potential challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

33. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to further explore ways and means to broaden its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

34. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[104] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004, 60/129 of 16 December 2005, 61/137 of

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[103] Available from www.unhcr.org.

[104] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

19 December 2006, 62/124 of 18 December 2007, 63/148 of 18 December 2008, 64/127 of 18 December 2009 and 65/194 of 21 December 2010 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

35. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/134

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/456, para. 13)[105]

66/134. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2011/263 of 28 July 2011 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 1 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[106] and the letter dated 11 July 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council,[107]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from eighty-five States to eighty-seven States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2012.

RESOLUTION 66/135

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/456, para. 13)[108]

66/135. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[109] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[110]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[111] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[112] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the adoption, and the ongoing ratification process, of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[113] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence,

Gravely concerned about the rising number of refugees in various parts of the continent,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

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[105] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Denmark, Egypt, India, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan.

[106] E/2011/75.

[107] E/2011/130.

[108] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[109] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

[110] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[111] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[112] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[113] Available from www.africa-union.org.

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Recalling the regional dialogues that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees undertook on protection challenges and solutions with refugee women and girls in Uganda and Zambia in March and April 2011, respectively,

Welcoming the ministerial mini-summit on the humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa crisis, held in New York on 24 September 2011, the African Union pledging conference for the Horn of Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 25 August 2011, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation pledging meeting on Somalia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17 August 2011, as well as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and East African Community joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis on the theme "Ending Drought Emergencies: A Commitment to Sustainable Solutions", held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, dedicated to raising awareness and mobilizing resources to address the crisis in the Horn of Africa, and in this context expressing appreciation for the valuable contributions of countries and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant partners,

Noting with appreciation the Joint Declaration adopted at the joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis, which, inter alia, expressed concern about the mass exodus of refugees into neighbouring countries, as well as the increased number of internally displaced persons due to the current humanitarian crises of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa,

Noting with appreciation also the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006,[114] and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact, which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African countries that continue to host the influx of refugees due to recent humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations and, in this regard, expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and the Horn of Africa, and further acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners, with regard to, inter alia, voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement, in addressing the plight of refugees during the emergency,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Welcoming the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[115] and welcoming in this context the convening, by the Office of the High Commissioner, of an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level on 7 and 8 December 2011 to commemorate these anniversaries,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[116] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[117]

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[113] to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

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[114] Available from www.icglr.org.

[115] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

[116] A/66/321.

[117] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/66/12).

5. *Welcomes* decisions EX.CL/Dec.629 (XVIII) and EX.CL/Dec.653 (XIX) on the humanitarian situation in Africa, insofar as they relate to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 January 2011, and at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Malabo from 23 to 28 June 2011, respectively;[118]

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Recalls* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner, at its sixty-first session, held from 4 to 8 October 2010,[119] and endorses its report on the work of its sixty-second session, held from 3 to 7 October 2011;[120]

9. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;

10. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement;

12. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

13. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,[121] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum

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[118] See African Union, documents EX.CL/Dec.600–643 (XVIII) and EX.CL/Dec.644–667 (XIX). Available from www.africa-union.org.

[119] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/65/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[120] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/66/12/Add.1).

[121] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

16. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

17. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

19. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers;

22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

23. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

24. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral

Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[122] where appropriate and feasible; and in this context commends recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner in launching the Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative in April 2011 and by States that have responded generously in this respect;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

27. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

28. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

29. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[123] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

30. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

RESOLUTION 66/136

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/457, para. 20),[124] by a recorded vote of 122 to 3, with 59 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

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[122] Available from www.unhcr.org.

[123] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

[124] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

66/136. Report of the Human Rights Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, by which it established the Human Rights Council, and its resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011 on the review of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also its resolutions 62/219 of 22 December 2007, 63/160 of 18 December 2008, 64/143 of 18 December 2009 and 65/195 of 21 December 2010,

Having considered the recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council,[125]

Takes note of the report of the Human Rights Council,[125] its addendum[126] and its recommendations.

RESOLUTION 66/137

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/457, para. 20)[127]

66/137. United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 16/1 of 23 March 2011,[128] of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,

1. *Adopts* the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof, and requests the Secretary-General to include the text of the Declaration in the next edition of *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments.*

A[illegible]

United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the promotion and encouragement of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also that every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming further that everyone has the right to education, and that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society and promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace, security and the promotion of development and human rights,

Reaffirming that States are duty-bound, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[129] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[130] and in other human rights instruments, to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Acknowledging the fundamental importance of human rights education and training in contributing to the promotion, protection and effective realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, on all States and institutions to include human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and rule of law in the curricula of all learning institutions, and its statement that human rights education should include peace, democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments, in order to achieve common understanding and awareness with a view to strengthening universal commitment to human rights,[131]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government supported the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in that regard,[132]

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[125] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53).

[126] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1).

[127] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[128] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

[129] Resolution 217 A (III).

[130] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[131] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II.D, paras. 79 and 80.

Motivated by the desire to send a strong signal to the international community to strengthen all efforts in human rights education and training through a collective commitment by all stakeholders,

Declares the following:

Article 1

1. Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training.

2. Human rights education and training is essential for the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the principles of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights.

3. The effective enjoyment of all human rights, in particular the right to education and access to information, enables access to human rights education and training.

Article 2

1. Human rights education and training comprises all educational, training, information, awareness-raising and learning activities aimed at promoting universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and thus contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses by providing persons with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviours, to empower them to contribute to the building and promotion of a universal culture of human rights.

2. Human rights education and training encompasses:

(*a*) Education about human rights, which includes providing knowledge and understanding of human rights norms and principles, the values that underpin them and the mechanisms for their protection;

(*b*) Education through human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners;

(*c*) Education for human rights, which includes empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.

Article 3

1. Human rights education and training is a lifelong process that concerns all ages.

2. Human rights education and training concerns all parts of society, at all levels, including preschool, primary, secondary and higher education, taking into account academic freedom where applicable, and all forms of education, training and learning, whether in a public or private, formal, informal or non-formal setting. It includes, inter alia, vocational training, particularly the training of trainers, teachers and State officials, continuing education, popular education, and public information and awareness activities.

3. Human rights education and training should use languages and methods suited to target groups, taking into account their specific needs and conditions.

Article 4

Human rights education and training should be based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant treaties and instruments, with a view to:

(*a*) Raising awareness, understanding and acceptance of universal human rights standards and principles, as well as guarantees at the international, regional and national levels for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*b*) Developing a universal culture of human rights, in which everyone is aware of their own rights and responsibilities in respect of the rights of others, and promoting the development of the individual as a responsible member of a free, peaceful, pluralist and inclusive society;

(*c*) Pursuing the effective realization of all human rights and promoting tolerance, non-discrimination and equality;

(*d*) Ensuring equal opportunities for all through access to quality human rights education and training, without any discrimination;

(*e*) Contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses and to the combating and eradication of all forms of discrimination, racism, stereotyping and incitement to hatred, and the harmful attitudes and prejudices that underlie them.

Article 5

1. Human rights education and training, whether provided by public or private actors, should be based on the principles of equality, particularly between girls and boys and between women and men, human dignity, inclusion and non-discrimination.

2. Human rights education and training should be accessible and available to all persons and should take into account the particular challenges and barriers faced by, and the needs and

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[132] See resolution 60/1, para. 131.

expectations of, persons in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations and groups, including persons with disabilities, in order to promote empowerment and human development and to contribute to the elimination of the causes of exclusion or marginalization, as well as enable everyone to exercise all their rights.

3. Human rights education and training should embrace and enrich, as well as draw inspiration from, the diversity of civilizations, religions, cultures and traditions of different countries, as it is reflected in the universality of human rights.

4. Human rights education and training should take into account different economic, social and cultural circumstances, while promoting local initiatives in order to encourage ownership of the common goal of the fulfilment of all human rights for all.

Article 6

1. Human rights education and training should capitalize on and make use of new information and communication technologies, as well as the media, to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. The arts should be encouraged as a means of training and raising awareness in the field of human rights.

Article 7

1. States, and where applicable relevant governmental authorities, have the primary responsibility to promote and ensure human rights education and training, developed and implemented in a spirit of participation, inclusion and responsibility.

2. States should create a safe and enabling environment for the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in human rights education and training, in which the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including of those engaged in the process, are fully protected.

3. States should take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, to ensure, to the maximum of their available resources, the progressive implementation of human rights education and training by appropriate means, including the adoption of legislative and administrative measures and policies.

4. States, and where applicable relevant governmental authorities, should ensure adequate training in human rights and, where appropriate, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, of State officials, civil servants, judges, law enforcement officials and military personnel, as well as promote adequate training in human rights for teachers, trainers and other educators and private personnel acting on behalf of the State.

Article 8

1. States should develop, or promote the development of, at the appropriate level, strategies and policies and, where appropriate, action plans and programmes to implement human rights education and training, such as through its integration into school and training curricula. In so doing, they should take into account the World Programme for Human Rights Education and specific national and local needs and priorities.

2. The conception, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to such strategies, action plans, policies and programmes should involve all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and national human rights institutions, by promoting, where appropriate, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Article 9

States should promote the establishment, development and strengthening of effective and independent national human rights institutions, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ("the Paris Principles"),[133] recognizing that national human rights institutions can play an important role, including, where necessary, a coordinating role, in promoting human rights education and training by, inter alia, raising awareness and mobilizing relevant public and private actors.

Article 10

1. Various actors within society, including, inter alia, educational institutions, the media, families, local communities, civil society institutions, including non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders and the private sector, have an important role to play in promoting and providing human rights education and training.

2. Civil society institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to ensure adequate human rights education and training for their staff and personnel.

Article 11

The United Nations and international and regional organizations should provide human rights education and training for their civilian personnel and for military and police personnel serving under their mandates.

Article 12

1. International cooperation at all levels should support and reinforce national efforts, including, where applicable, at the local level, to implement human rights education and training.

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[133] Resolution 48/134, annex.

2. Complementary and coordinated efforts at the international, regional, national and local levels can contribute to more effective implementation of human rights education and training.

3. Voluntary funding for projects and initiatives in the field of human rights education and training should be encouraged.

Article 13

1. International and regional human rights mechanisms should, within their respective mandates, take into account human rights education and training in their work.

2. States are encouraged to include, where appropriate, information on the measures that they have adopted in the field of human rights education and training in their reports to relevant human rights mechanisms.

Article 14

States should take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the present Declaration and make the necessary resources available in this regard.

RESOLUTION 66/138

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/457, para. 20)[134]

66/138. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

The General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the Human Rights Council, through its resolution 17/18 of 17 June 2011,[135] of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,

1. *Adopts* the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* that the Optional Protocol be opened for signature at a signing ceremony to be held in 2012, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the necessary assistance.

Annex

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

The States parties to the present Protocol,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Noting that the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") recognize the rights set forth in it to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also the status of the child as a subject of rights and as a human being with dignity and with evolving capacities,

Recognizing that children's special and dependent status may create real difficulties for them in pursuing remedies for violations of their rights,

Considering that the present Protocol will reinforce and complement national and regional mechanisms allowing children to submit complaints for violations of their rights,

Recognizing that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration to be respected in pursuing remedies for violations of the rights of the child, and that such remedies should take into account the need for child-sensitive procedures at all levels,

Encouraging States parties to develop appropriate national mechanisms to enable a child whose rights have been violated to have access to effective remedies at the domestic level,

Recalling the important role that national human rights institutions and other relevant specialized institutions, mandated to promote and protect the rights of the child, can play in this regard,

Considering that, in order to reinforce and complement such national mechanisms and to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and, where applicable, the

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[134] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uruguay.

[135] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

Optional Protocols thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, it would be appropriate to enable the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") to carry out the functions provided for in the present Protocol,

Have agreed as follows:

Part I
General provisions

Article 1
Competence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

1. A State party to the present Protocol recognizes the competence of the Committee as provided for by the present Protocol.

2. The Committee shall not exercise its competence regarding a State party to the present Protocol on matters concerning violations of rights set forth in an instrument to which that State is not a party.

3. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State that is not a party to the present Protocol.

Article 2
General principles guiding the functions of the Committee

In fulfilling the functions conferred on it by the present Protocol, the Committee shall be guided by the principle of the best interests of the child. It shall also have regard for the rights and views of the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Article 3
Rules of procedure

1. The Committee shall adopt rules of procedure to be followed when exercising the functions conferred on it by the present Protocol. In doing so, it shall have regard, in particular, for article 2 of the present Protocol in order to guarantee child-sensitive procedures.

2. The Committee shall include in its rules of procedure safeguards to prevent the manipulation of the child by those acting on his or her behalf and may decline to examine any communication that it considers not to be in the child's best interests.

Article 4
Protection measures

1. A State party shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that individuals under its jurisdiction are not subjected to any human rights violation, ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of communications or cooperation with the Committee pursuant to the present Protocol.

2. The identity of any individual or group of individuals concerned shall not be revealed publicly without their express consent.

Part II
Communications procedure

Article 5
Individual communications

1. Communications may be submitted by or on behalf of an individual or group of individuals, within the jurisdiction of a State party, claiming to be victims of a violation by that State party of any of the rights set forth in any of the following instruments to which that State is a party:

(*a*) The Convention;

(*b*) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(*c*) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

2. Where a communication is submitted on behalf of an individual or group of individuals, this shall be with their consent unless the author can justify acting on their behalf without such consent.

Article 6
Interim measures

1. At any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may transmit to the State party concerned for its urgent consideration a request that the State party take such interim measures as may be necessary in exceptional circumstances to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violations.

2. Where the Committee exercises its discretion under paragraph 1 of the present article, this does not imply a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication.

Article 7
Admissibility

The Committee shall consider a communication inadmissible when:

(*a*) The communication is anonymous;

(*b*) The communication is not in writing;

(*c*) The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto;

(*d*) The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;

(*e*) All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;

(*f*) The communication is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated;

(*g*) The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State party concerned, unless those facts continued after that date;

(*h*) The communication is not submitted within one year after the exhaustion of domestic remedies, except in cases where the author can demonstrate that it had not been possible to submit the communication within that time limit.

Article 8
Transmission of the communication

1. Unless the Committee considers a communication inadmissible without reference to the State party concerned, the Committee shall bring any communication submitted to it under the present Protocol confidentially to the attention of the State party concerned as soon as possible.

2. The State party shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that it may have provided. The State party shall submit its response as soon as possible and within six months.

Article 9
Friendly settlement

1. The Committee shall make available its good offices to the parties concerned with a view to reaching a friendly settlement of the matter on the basis of respect for the obligations set forth in the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto.

2. An agreement on a friendly settlement reached under the auspices of the Committee closes consideration of the communication under the present Protocol.

Article 10
Consideration of communications

1. The Committee shall consider communications received under the present Protocol as quickly as possible, in the light of all documentation submitted to it, provided that this documentation is transmitted to the parties concerned.

2. The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications received under the present Protocol.

3. Where the Committee has requested interim measures, it shall expedite the consideration of the communication.

4. When examining communications alleging violations of economic, social or cultural rights, the Committee shall consider the reasonableness of the steps taken by the State party in accordance with article 4 of the Convention. In doing so, the Committee shall bear in mind that the State party may adopt a range of possible policy measures for the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights in the Convention.

5. After examining a communication, the Committee shall, without delay, transmit its views on the communication, together with its recommendations, if any, to the parties concerned.

Article 11
Follow-up

1. The State party shall give due consideration to the views of the Committee, together with its recommendations, if any, and shall submit to the Committee a written response, including information on any action taken and envisaged in the light of the views and recommendations of the Committee. The State party shall submit its response as soon as possible and within six months.

2. The Committee may invite the State party to submit further information about any measures the State party has taken in response to its views or recommendations or implementation of a friendly settlement agreement, if any, including as deemed appropriate by the Committee, in the State party's subsequent reports under article 44 of the Convention, article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, where applicable.

Article 12
Inter-State communications

1. A State party to the present Protocol may, at any time, declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications in which a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under any of the following instruments to which the State is a party:

(*a*) The Convention;

(*b*) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(*c*) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

2. The Committee shall not receive communications concerning a State party that has not made such a declaration or

communications from a State party that has not made such a declaration.

3. The Committee shall make available its good offices to the States parties concerned with a view to a friendly solution of the matter on the basis of the respect for the obligations set forth in the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

4. A declaration under paragraph 1 of the present article shall be deposited by the States parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not prejudice the consideration of any matter that is the subject of a communication already transmitted under the present article; no further communications by any State party shall be received under the present article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State party concerned has made a new declaration.

Part III
Inquiry procedure

Article 13
Inquiry procedure for grave or systematic violations

1. If the Committee receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State party of rights set forth in the Convention or in the Optional Protocols thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Committee shall invite the State party to cooperate in the examination of the information and, to this end, to submit observations without delay with regard to the information concerned.

2. Taking into account any observations that may have been submitted by the State party concerned, as well as any other reliable information available to it, the Committee may designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and to report urgently to the Committee. Where warranted and with the consent of the State party, the inquiry may include a visit to its territory.

3. Such an inquiry shall be conducted confidentially, and the cooperation of the State party shall be sought at all stages of the proceedings.

4. After examining the findings of such an inquiry, the Committee shall transmit without delay these findings to the State party concerned, together with any comments and recommendations.

5. The State party concerned shall, as soon as possible and within six months of receiving the findings, comments and recommendations transmitted by the Committee, submit its observations to the Committee.

6. After such proceedings have been completed with regard to an inquiry made in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article, the Committee may, after consultation with the State party concerned, decide to include a summary account of the results of the proceedings in its report provided for in article 16 of the present Protocol.

7. Each State party may, at the time of signature or ratification of the present Protocol or accession thereto, declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in the present article in respect of the rights set forth in some or all of the instruments listed in paragraph 1.

8. Any State party having made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 7 of the present article may, at any time, withdraw this declaration by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 14
Follow-up to the inquiry procedure

1. The Committee may, if necessary, after the end of the period of six months referred to in article 13, paragraph 5, invite the State party concerned to inform it of the measures taken and envisaged in response to an inquiry conducted under article 13 of the present Protocol.

2. The Committee may invite the State party to submit further information about any measures that the State party has taken in response to an inquiry conducted under article 13, including as deemed appropriate by the Committee, in the State party's subsequent reports under article 44 of the Convention, article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, where applicable.

Part IV
Final provisions

Article 15
International assistance and cooperation

1. The Committee may transmit, with the consent of the State party concerned, to United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other competent bodies its views or recommendations concerning communications and inquiries that indicate a need for technical advice or assistance, together with the State party's observations and suggestions, if any, on these views or recommendations.

2. The Committee may also bring to the attention of such bodies, with the consent of the State party concerned, any matter arising out of communications considered under the present Protocol that may assist them in deciding, each within its field of competence, on the advisability of international measures likely to contribute to assisting States parties in achieving progress in the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto.

Article 16
Report to the General Assembly

The Committee shall include in its report submitted every two years to the General Assembly in accordance with article 44, paragraph 5, of the Convention a summary of its activities under the present Protocol.

Article 17
Dissemination of and information on the Optional Protocol

Each State party undertakes to make widely known and to disseminate the present Protocol and to facilitate access to information about the views and recommendations of the Committee, in particular with regard to matters involving the State party, by appropriate and active means and in accessible formats to adults and children alike, including those with disabilities.

Article 18
Signature, ratification and accession

1. The present Protocol is open for signature to any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto.

2. The present Protocol is subject to ratification by any State that has ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Protocol shall be open to accession by any State that has ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto.

4. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General.

Article 19
Entry into force

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying the present Protocol or acceding to it after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or instrument of accession, the present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 20
Violations occurring after the entry into force

1. The Committee shall have competence solely in respect of violations by the State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention and/or the first two Optional Protocols thereto occurring after the entry into force of the present Protocol.

2. If a State becomes a party to the present Protocol after its entry into force, the obligations of that State vis-à-vis the Committee shall relate only to violations of the rights set forth in the Convention and/or the first two Optional Protocols thereto occurring after the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State concerned.

Article 21
Amendments

1. Any State party may propose an amendment to the present Protocol and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States parties with a request to be notified whether they favour a meeting of States parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months of the date of such communication, at least one third of the States parties favour such a meeting, the Secretary-General shall convene the meeting under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and, thereafter, to all States parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States parties that have accepted it.

Article 22
Denunciation

1. Any State party may denounce the present Protocol at any time by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. Denunciation shall be without prejudice to the continued application of the provisions of the present Protocol to any communication submitted under articles 5 or 12 or any inquiry initiated under article 13 before the effective date of denunciation.

Article 23
Depositary and notification by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Protocol.

2. The Secretary-General shall inform all States of:

(*a*) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under the present Protocol;

(*b*) The date of entry into force of the present Protocol and of any amendment thereto under article 21;

(*c*) Any denunciation under article 22 of the present Protocol.

Article 24
Languages

1. The present Protocol, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of the present Protocol to all States.

RESOLUTION 66/139

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/458, para. 32)[136]

66/139. Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child[137] and its Optional Protocols,[138] and reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child,

Recognizing the primary role and responsibility of the State in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, bearing in mind the importance of relevant actors of the United Nations supporting the State in this regard,

Reaffirming that the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including those of a State and all relevant actors of the United Nations dealing with the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection,

Recognizing the important role and the continuing work of the United Nations system and all its relevant actors in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and recognizing also the role and contribution of civil society in this regard,

Stressing that further strengthening collaboration within the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, is important for continuing to support efforts of Member States in the realization of the rights of the child, and in this regard reaffirms the important role that the General Assembly continues to play in strengthening collaboration and coherence within the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the existing collaboration among relevant actors of the United Nations working on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and encourages them, within existing resources and mandates, to highlight information on such collaboration in their existing reports to the General Assembly and to also address this issue within the framework of the existing Third Committee interactive dialogue under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", and invites these United Nations actors to further enhance their collaboration;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection to continue to exercise their functions in a fully independent manner and to act in full observance of their respective mandates;

3. *Underlines* the importance of sustained, adequate resources and support for the work of the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and in this regard strongly encourages enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of all relevant actors of the United Nations, so as to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of child protection;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the current collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, taking into account information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION 66/140

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/458, para. 32)[139]

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[136] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

[137] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[138] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[139] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.

66/140. The girl child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/145 of 18 December 2009 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming also the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[140] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[141] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[142] the Optional Protocols thereto[143] and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,[144]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,[145] and welcoming the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[146]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[147] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled "Global Crisis — Global Action",[148] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2006,[149]

Reaffirming further all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their five- and ten-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration[150] and Platform for Action[151] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[152] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[153] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[154] as well as the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status on Women at its fifty-fifth session,[155] at which it considered "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work" as its priority theme,

Welcoming the adoption by the Commission on the Status of Women of the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[156] and reiterating that full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the outcomes of the recent high-level meetings of the General Assembly relevant to the girl child,

Recalling also the Secretary-General's 2008–2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the call upon Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming the importance of gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, including in relation to the girl child,

Recognizing that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it, and noting that the burden of the global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those depending on income from the informal sector, and particularly by women and girls,

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[140] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[141] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[142] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[143] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[144] Ibid., vol. 521, No. 7525.

[145] See resolution 60/1.

[146] See resolution 65/1.

[147] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[148] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[149] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[150] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[151] Ibid., annex II.

[152] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[153] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[154] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[155] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[156] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

Recognizing also that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Recognizing further that progress has been made in the adoption of national legislation that affirms the equality of girls and boys and that corresponding measures have not been taken to effectively implement such legislation, and recognizing the continuing existence of discrimination against women and girls throughout the world and that addressing this situation will require additional efforts to strengthen policy implementation, including through international cooperation,

Recognizing that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Deeply concerned about all forms of violence against children, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child and forced marriages, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking in persons and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms reinforcing the lower status of girls in society,

Deeply concerned also that violence against women and girls is underrecognized, particularly at the community level, and underreported or unrecorded because of stigma, fear, social tolerance and the often illegal and covert nature of such activities,

Deeply concerned further about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful traditional practices, such as female infanticide, child and forced marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned that child and forced marriages expose young married girls to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often lead to early childbearing and increase the risk of disability, stillbirth and maternal death, and reduce their opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills, and violate and impair the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

Deeply concerned also that early pregnancy and early childbearing and limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, including in the area of skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, cause high prevalences of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and furthermore entail complications during pregnancy and childbirth which often lead to death, particularly for young women and girls,

Recognizing that progress towards ending child and forced marriages can have a positive impact on indicators related to girls' education, maternal health and child health, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Deeply concerned that, despite their widespread practice, child and forced marriages are still underreported, and recognizing that this requires further attention,

Deeply concerned also that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation by 2010, set out in the document entitled "A world fit for children", remains unmet,

Deeply concerned further that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and furthermore become the victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV and AIDS, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

Emphasizing that increased access to education for young people, especially girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases, in particular HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases,

Recognizing that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to the improvement of the educational and social status of girls in all parts of the world and that, overall, child and forced marriages and early motherhood can severely curtail their educational opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on their employment opportunities and on their and their children's quality of life,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in respect of their access to education and employment, and the importance of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard,

Noting with concern that, in some parts of the world, men outnumber women as a result, in part, of harmful attitudes and practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference, which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and discrimination against girls in food allocation and in other practices related to health and well-being, with the result that fewer girls than boys survive into adulthood,

Deeply concerned that the phenomenon of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, is becoming a serious social problem,

Deeply concerned also that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, erosion of the extended family, exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

Recognizing that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this impacts negatively on girls by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[140] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[141] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[142] and the Optional Protocols thereto[143] as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed and ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)[157] and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[158] of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum,[159] in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, which have not been fully met, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and calls for the implementation of and reaffirms the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurial training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work;

5. *Encourages* States to promote the development of gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and to take concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypic roles, particularly in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects, in order to address the root causes of segregation in working life;

6. *Calls upon* States and the international community to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, and ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families;

7. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that

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[157] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

[158] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

[159] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination against girls in child and forced marriages;

8. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action,[151] in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[160] and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve the goals and strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Declaration[150] and Platform for Action;

9. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives, where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

10. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;[161]

11. *Also urges* States to fulfil the pledges that they made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to modify or abolish remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls;

12. *Further urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

13. *Urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work, and equal payment and remuneration, are protected from economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and also urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slavery-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking and hazardous forms of child labour;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care and the need to integrate the HIV response into it, and notes that weak health systems, which already face many challenges, including a lack of trained health workers and insufficient retention of skilled health workers, are among the biggest barriers to accessing health care;

15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services;

16. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, birth registration, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes, including those relating to children as well as those specific to the girl child;

17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the media, to take appropriate measures to address the root factors of child and forced marriages, including by undertaking educational activities to raise awareness regarding the negative aspects of such practices;

18. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and to develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

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[160] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[161] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

19. *Urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to end child and forced marriages engage all stakeholders and agents of change and ensure that the information on the legislation against the practice is well known and generates social support for the enforcement of such laws and legislation;

20. *Calls upon* States to support community workshops and discussion sessions to enable communities to collectively explore ways to prevent and address child and forced marriages, provide information through stakeholders who are credible to the community, such as medical personnel and local, community and religious leaders, regarding the harm associated with these marriages, give greater voice to girls and ensure consistence of message throughout the entire community, and encourage the much-needed strong engagement of men and boys;

21. *Also calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child and forced marriages and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities, increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools;

22. *Further calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location, in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to develop necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to protect their rights effectively;

23. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs;

24. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and forced marriage, as well as marriage under legal age, and to develop age-appropriate safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

25. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the abandonment of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and to provide appropriate services for those affected by the practices;

26. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

27. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

28. *Also urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

29. *Further urges* States to involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

30. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter,

good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

31. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

32. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

33. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially girls, in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-besed violence;

34. *Also deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[162]

35. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[163] and the activities outlined therein, and expresses its view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion of the rights of the girls and enhance cooperation and a better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[164] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[165]

36. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support;

37. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

39. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of

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[162] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1).

[163] Resolution 64/293.

[164] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[165] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

40. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities, with a view to achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

41. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

42. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, for an active and healthy life, as part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS, other communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases;

43. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

44. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, in the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels;

45. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased human and financial resources, targeted innovative programmes that address ending female genital mutilation and developing and providing education programmes, such as the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme on accelerating the abandonment of female genital mutilation, and sensitization workshops on the dire consequences of this harmful practice for the health of the girl, and to provide training programmes for those who perform the harmful procedure so that they may adopt an alternative profession;

46. *Stresses* that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national and international levels could lead to the abandonment of female genital mutilation within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

47. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and the international financial institutions to actively support, through the allocation of increased human and financial resources, efforts to end child and forced marriages;

48. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocation of adequate resources in order to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

49. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels, in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[166] are realized within their time framework, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an emphasis on child-headed households: causes, effects and prospects, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.

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[166] See resolution 55/2.

RESOLUTION 66/141

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/458, para. 32)[167]

66/141. Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[168] constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention,[169] calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[170] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance[171] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[172]

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including adolescents,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[173] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[174] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[175] and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[176] the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[177] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[178] the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[179] the Declaration on the Right to Development[180] and the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[181] as well as the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,[182]

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[183] and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 65/197,[184] as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children[185] and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,[186] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

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[167] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

[168] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[169] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[170] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[171] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[172] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[173] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[174] See resolution 55/2.

[175] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[176] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[177] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[178] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

[179] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[180] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[181] See resolution 62/88.

[182] See resolution 65/1.

[183] A/66/258.

[184] A/66/230.

[185] A/66/227.

[186] A/66/256.

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Taking note with appreciation of the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world has been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Gravely concerned about the devastating impact of some of the recent natural disasters, including on children, reaffirming the importance of providing speedy, sustainable and adequate humanitarian assistance in support of relief, early recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts of the affected countries, and reaffirming also the importance of ensuring that human rights, including child rights, are mainstreamed into these efforts,

Stressing the need for the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[187] and expressing the view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[188] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[189]

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 6 of its resolution 65/197, and urges States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[168] its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[190] and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict[191] as a matter of priority and to implement them fully;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict ahead of the tenth anniversary in 2012 of their entry into force, and calls for the effective implementation of the Convention and the above-mentioned Optional Protocols to ensure that all children may fully enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[173]

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption on 17 June 2011 by the Human Rights Council of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child providing a communications procedure complementary to the reporting procedure under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[192]

5. *Encourages* States parties, in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, to take note of the recommendations, observations and general comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

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[187] Resolution 64/293.

[188] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[189] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[190] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[191] Ibid., vol. 2173, No. 27531.

[192] Resolution 66/138, annex.

including, inter alia, general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities;[193]

6. *Welcomes* actions of the Committee to monitor the implementation by States parties of the Convention, and notes with appreciation its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations, and in this regard underlines, in particular, the regional workshops and the participation of the Committee in national-level initiatives;

II

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 9 to 11 of its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

Registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care

8. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 12 to 16 of its resolution 63/241, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[168] to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention;

9. *Recalls* the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, contained in the annex to its resolution 64/142 of 18 December 2009, as a set of orientations to help to inform policy and practice, and encourages States to take them into account;

Economic and social well-being of children, eradication of poverty, right to education, right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and right to food

10. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17 to 26 of its resolution 63/241, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006, on the theme of children and poverty, and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005, on the theme of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, the right to education, and measures to promote human rights education, in accordance with the evolving capacities of the child, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

11. *Recognizes* the threat to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, posed by the global financial and economic crisis, which is connected to multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the food crisis and continuing food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, environmental degradation and climate change, and calls upon States to address, in their response to these crises, the negative impact on the full enjoyment of the rights of children;

Elimination of violence against children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 27 to 32 of its resolution 63/241 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, on the theme of elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 27 of its resolution 63/241;

13. *Urges* States to take, or strengthen, as appropriate, legislative and other measures to effectively prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children, in all settings;

14. *Encourages* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and to provide support, including financial support, to her for the effective and independent performance of her mandate, as set out in resolution 62/141, and in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children,[194] while promoting and ensuring country ownership and national plans and programmes in this regard, and calls upon States and institutions concerned, and invites the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional

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[193] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/63/41), annex III.

[194] See A/61/299 and A/62/209.

organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society and with the participation of children;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,[195] which provides an overview of accessible and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms to address incidents of violence, including sexual violence and exploitation;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

17. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 42 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children in particularly difficult situations and to implement programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care, education and social services, as well as, where appropriate and feasible, voluntary repatriation, reintegration, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

18. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 16/12 of 24 March 2011 entitled "Rights of the child: a holistic approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street",[196] and calls for its full implementation;

Children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law and children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law

19. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 43 to 47 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

20. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 48 to 50 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

21. *Calls upon* all States to develop and implement programmes and policies to protect children from abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and child abduction, and calls upon States to implement strategies to locate and assist all children subject to these violations;

22. *Also calls upon* all States to enact and enforce necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet and in all other media of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

Children affected by armed conflict

23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 51 to 63 of its resolution 63/241, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them, and urges all States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to continue to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;[197]

24. *Also reaffirms* the essential roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, notes the increasing role played by the Security Council in ensuring protection for children affected by armed conflict, and also notes the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission, within its mandate, in areas that

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[195] A/HRC/16/56.

[196] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[197] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

promote and contribute to the enjoyment of the rights and welfare of children;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective, reliable and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment, as appropriate, of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

Child labour

26. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 64 to 80 of its resolution 63/241, on the theme of child labour, and calls upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, and to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour;

27. *Notes with interest* the outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference, including the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016;

28. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the global report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization entitled "Accelerating action against child labour";

29. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)[198] and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[199] of the International Labour Organization;

Implementing child rights in early childhood

30. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 28 to 45 of its resolution 65/197, reaffirming that early childhood is a critical phase for the realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 43 of its resolution 65/197;

III

The rights of children with disabilities

31. *Also reaffirms* that all children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[168] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[170] and that the full and effective implementation of these instruments is an important step to the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, including respect for their evolving capacities and respect for their right to preserve their identity;

32. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, recognizing the importance of taking appropriate and effective measures among States that aim at facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

33. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

34. *Concerned* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

35. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children, including those with disabilities, and also reaffirms resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010;

36. *Recognizes* that the majority of children with disabilities live in poverty and that equitable access to economic opportunities and social services, as close as possible to children's own communities, is an important part of relevant strategies for sustainable development;

37. *Also recognizes* that children with disabilities are often denied the right to a family environment and to live and be included in their communities, and in this regard reaffirms that they have equal rights with respect to family and community life and should not be separated from their parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable laws and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child, and that in no case should separation be on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;

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[198] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

[199] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

38. *Further recognizes* the importance of preventing the concealment, abandonment, neglect or segregation of children with disabilities, and in this regard encourages States to consider the introduction of a commitment towards replacing institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community care, and transferring resources to community-based support services and other forms of alternative care;

39. *Expresses concern* at the number of children with disabilities who continue to be denied the right to education, and in this regard reaffirms the right of children with disabilities to have effective access to education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including their cultural and spiritual development;

40. *Recognizes* also that early education is of high importance for children with disabilities, and that the measures taken to implement the right to education for children with disabilities should aim at their maximum inclusion in society, free from discrimination;

41. *Reaffirms* that States should take effective and appropriate measures to ensure, on an equal basis with others, that children with disabilities retain their fertility, and that adolescent boys and girls with disabilities have access to information and education, including on reproductive and family planning, that is age-appropriate and in an accessible format;

42. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and reaffirms the obligations of States under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and protection in such situations, including by reviewing their emergency response programmes and support facilities to make them accessible for children with disabilities;

43. *Calls upon* all States to include, within the overall context of policies and programmes for the realization of the rights of the child, for all children within their jurisdiction, the relevant provisions for the realization of these rights for children with disabilities, in particular:

(*a*) Urges all States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,[200] and to do so as a matter of priority, and invites regional integration organizations that have the relevant competence to do so, as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to consider accession to the Convention;

(*b*) To review on a regular basis relevant domestic laws, related regulations and policies in order to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are fully respected, protected and fulfilled in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(*c*) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to children with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds;

(*d*) To ensure that children with disabilities have access to information on their rights, including through human rights education and training, enabling them to contribute to identifying, preventing and acting upon violations of their rights;

(*e*) To take appropriate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications technologies and systems and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public both in urban and in rural areas;

(*f*) To take all necessary measures to ensure the registration of children with disabilities immediately after birth, including by removing barriers that impede their registration, and to guarantee their right to a name, their right to a nationality and, as far as possible, their right to know and be cared for by their parents;

(*g*) To implement fully the commitments undertaken in General Assembly resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010 entitled "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond", and to ensure that children with disabilities are rendered visible in the collection and analysis of data;

(*h*) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify and address the barriers faced by children with disabilities in exercising their rights;

(*i*) To adopt, implement and/or strengthen appropriate policies aimed at ensuring the right to an adequate standard of living for children with disabilities and their families, along with equal access to quality and affordable services, especially health, nutrition, education, welfare, social protection, safe drinking water, sanitation and other services that are essential for the child's well-being, and, in this regard, to pay particular attention to the most vulnerable children with disabilities and to those living under especially difficult circumstances;

(*j*) To ensure that children with disabilities have access to the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate health care and programmes as provided to other children, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health, and to take measures to prohibit the forced abortion and sterilization of children on grounds of disability;

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[200] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

(*k*) To ensure equal access for children with disabilities to appropriate, timely, affordable and high-quality rehabilitation within the existing health infrastructure, and strengthen the provision of community-based rehabilitation services consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(*l*) To ensure that community and civil society institutions, services and facilities responsible for children with disabilities comply with national and local quality standards, especially in the areas of health and social protection, and to develop training programmes to ensure a quality, suitable and well-trained workforce for the inclusion of children with disabilities;

(*m*) To develop strategies, or include in existing strategies measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children with disabilities, who are particularly vulnerable to, inter alia, cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment, medical or scientific experimentation, and sexual and physical violence, including bullying and cyberbullying, and to develop and introduce child- and gender-sensitive, accessible, safe and confidential reporting and complaints mechanisms;

(*n*) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization of the right to education for children with disabilities, including by ensuring that, on the basis of equal opportunity, accessibility and inclusiveness, they are not excluded from accessible, free and compulsory primary education directed to the development of their personality, talents and mental and physical abilities, from early childhood care and development to vocational training and preparation for work;

(*o*) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation, culture, leisure and sporting activities, including in the preschool and school system;

(*p*) To ensure that children with disabilities have the right, on an equal basis with other children, to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, giving those views due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right;

(*q*) To take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and safety of children with disabilities during and after situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including adopting and implementing programmes to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children with disabilities, including children who acquire disability as a consequence of such situations of risk, and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

(*r*) To take all necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the development of legislation and policies to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities;

44. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including for children with disabilities, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of children with disabilities, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

45. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, donor institutions, including the international financial institutions, and bilateral donors to support, inter alia, national initiatives, when requested, including development programmes for children with disabilities, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnership to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

IV

Follow-up

46. *Recognizes* the work of the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

47. *Decides:*

(*a*) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[168] and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on indigenous children, bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities;

(*b*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(*c*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(*d*) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(*e*) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children";

(*f*) To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on indigenous children, bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities.

RESOLUTION 66/142

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/459, para. 11)[201]

66/142. Rights of indigenous peoples

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the rights of indigenous peoples,

Reaffirming its resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010, in which it decided to organize a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014,

Recalling its resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005–2014),

Recalling also the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[202] which addresses their individual and collective rights,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[203] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[204] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[205]

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 18/8 of 29 September 2011 on human rights and indigenous peoples,[206]

Recalling also the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth,[207] hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

Stressing the importance of promoting and pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also through international cooperation to support national and regional efforts to achieve the ends of the Declaration, including the right to maintain and strengthen the distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions of indigenous peoples and the right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State,

Recognizing the value and the diversity of the cultures and the form of the social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment,

Concerned about the extreme disadvantages that indigenous peoples have typically faced across a range of social and economic indicators and about the impediments to their full enjoyment of their rights,

Recalling its resolution 65/198, by which it decided to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations so that it could assist representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council and of human rights treaty bodies, on the basis of diverse and renewed participation and in accordance with relevant rules and regulations, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and urged States to contribute to the Fund,

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[201] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[202] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[203] See resolution 55/2.

[204] See resolution 60/1.

[205] See resolution 65/1.

[206] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[207] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, takes note of his report on the rights of indigenous peoples,[208] and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to his requests for visits;

2. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the Trust Fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and invites indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise;

3. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)[209] to consider doing so and to consider supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[202] and welcomes the increased support by States for the Declaration;

4. *Encourages* States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of the Declaration;

5. *Encourages* all interested parties, in particular indigenous peoples, to disseminate and consider good practices at different levels as a practical guide on how to attain the goals of the Declaration;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to convene, within existing resources, a high-level event during the eleventh session of the Forum to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to raise awareness of the importance of pursuing its objectives;

7. *Stresses* that the result of that event could serve as an input for the preparation of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2014, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples;

8. *Invites* Governments, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders, including the media, as well as relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to carry out activities focused on marking the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, at the regional and national levels;

9. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Rights of indigenous peoples".

RESOLUTION 66/143

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/460, para. 17),[210] by a recorded vote of 134 to 24, with 32 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, Palau, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine

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[208] See A/66/288.

[209] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1650, No. 28383.

[210] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

66/143. Inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[211] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[212] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[213] and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2004/16 of 16 April 2004[214] and 2005/5 of 14 April 2005[215] and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 7/34 of 28 March 2008[216] and 18/15 of 29 September 2011,[217] as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/143 of 16 December 2005, 61/147 of 19 December 2006, 62/142 of 18 December 2007, 63/162 of 18 December 2008, 64/147 of 18 December 2009 and 65/199 of 21 December 2010 on this issue and resolutions 61/149 of 19 December 2006, 62/220 of 22 December 2007, 63/242 of 24 December 2008, 64/148 of 18 December 2009 and 65/240 of 24 December 2010, entitled "Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action",

Recalling also the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the Judgement of the Tribunal, which recognized, inter alia, the SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, as criminal and declared it responsible for many war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Recalling further the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,[218] in particular paragraph 2 of the Declaration and paragraph 86 of the Programme of Action, as well as the relevant provisions of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, of 24 April 2009,[219] in particular paragraphs 11 and 54,

Alarmed, in this regard, at the spread in many parts of the world of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, as well as similar extremist ideological movements,

Recalling that in 2010 the international community celebrated the sixty-fifth anniversary of victory in the Second World War, and welcoming in this regard the special solemn meeting of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, held on 6 May 2010,

Recalling also that the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly coincides with the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Judgement of the Nuremberg Tribunal,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance submitted to the Human Rights Council in accordance with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 65/199,[220]

1. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration[218] and of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference,[219] in which States condemned the persistence and resurgence of neo-Nazism, neo-Fascism and violent nationalist ideologies based on racial and national prejudice and stated that those phenomena could never be justified in any instance or in any circumstances;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance prepared in accordance with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 65/199;[221]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for her commitment to maintaining the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as one of the priority activities of her Office;

4. *Expresses deep concern* about the glorification of the Nazi movement and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials and holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, as well as by declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement participants in national liberation movements;

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[211] Resolution 217 A (III).

[212] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[213] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

[214] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[215] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[216] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II.

[217] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[218] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[219] See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

[220] A/HRC/18/44.

[221] See A/66/312.

5. *Expresses concern* at recurring attempts to desecrate or demolish monuments erected in remembrance of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, as well as to unlawfully exhume or remove the remains of such persons, and in this regard urges States to fully comply with their relevant obligations, inter alia, under article 34 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;[222]

6. *Notes with concern* the increase in the number of racist incidents in several countries and the rise of skinhead groups, which have been responsible for many of these incidents, as well as the resurgence of racist and xenophobic violence targeting members of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, as observed by the Special Rapporteur in his latest report to the General Assembly;

7. *Reaffirms* that such acts may be qualified to fall within the scope of activities described in article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[213] and that they may represent a clear and manifest abuse of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association as well as the rights to freedom of opinion and expression within the meaning of those rights as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[211] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[212] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

8. *Stresses* that the practices described above do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of crimes against humanity committed in the Second World War, in particular those committed by the SS organization and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement, and poison the minds of young people, and that failure by States to effectively address such practices is incompatible with the obligations of States Members of the United Nations under its Charter and is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Organization;

9. *Also stresses* that such practices fuel contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the spread and multiplication of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and in this regard calls for increased political and legal vigilance;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to take the measures necessary to put an end to the practices described above, and calls upon States to take more effective measures in accordance with international human rights law to combat those phenomena and the extremist movements, which pose a real threat to democratic values;

11. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, made in his latest report to the General Assembly, to introduce into domestic criminal law a provision according to which committing an offence with racist or xenophobic motivations or aims constitutes an aggravating circumstance allowing for enhanced penalties, and encourages those States whose legislation does not contain such provisions to consider that recommendation;

12. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the particular importance of all forms of education, including human rights education, as a complement to legislative measures, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur;

13. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur regarding the importance of history classes in teaching the dramatic events and human suffering that resulted from the ideologies of Nazism and Fascism;

14. *Stresses* the importance of other positive measures and initiatives aimed at bringing communities together and providing them with space for genuine dialogue, such as round tables, working groups and seminars, including training seminars for State agents and media professionals, as well as awareness-raising activities, especially those initiated by civil society representatives which require continued State support;

15. *Underlines* the potentially positive role that relevant United Nations entities and programmes, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can play in the aforementioned areas;

16. *Reaffirms* that, according to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, States parties to that instrument are under the obligation:

(*a*) To condemn all propaganda and all organizations that are based on ideas of racial superiority or that attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form;

(*b*) To undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the Convention;

(*c*) To declare as an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, and incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(*d*) To declare illegal and prohibit organizations and organized and all other propaganda activities that promote and incite racial discrimination, and to recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

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[222] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

(*e*) To prohibit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, from promoting or inciting racial discrimination;

17. *Also reaffirms* that, as underlined in paragraph 13 of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be prohibited by law, that all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, or incitement to racial discrimination as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts shall be declared offences punishable by law, in accordance with the international obligations of States, and that these prohibitions are consistent with freedom of opinion and expression;

18. *Expresses concern* about the use of the Internet to propagate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, as outlined in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly, and in this regard calls upon States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to implement fully articles 19 and 20 of the Covenant, which guarantee the right to freedom of expression and set out the limitations thereto;

19. *Underlines*, at the same time, the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including through the Internet, can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

20. *Encourages* those States that have made reservations to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to give serious consideration to withdrawing such reservations as a matter of priority, as stressed by the Special Rapporteur in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;[223]

21. *Notes* the importance of strengthening international cooperation at the regional and international levels with the aim of countering all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular regarding issues raised in the present resolution;

22. *Encourages* States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to ensure that their legislation incorporates the provisions of the Convention, including those of article 4;

23. *Recalls* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2005/5,[215] that the Special Rapporteur continue to reflect on this issue, make relevant recommendations in his future reports and seek and take into account in this regard the views of Governments and non-governmental organizations;

24. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session, reports on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular regarding paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 14 thereof, based on the views collected in accordance with the request of the Commission on Human Rights, as recalled by the Assembly in paragraph 23 above;

25. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have provided information to the Special Rapporteur in the course of the preparation of his report to the General Assembly;

26. *Also expresses its appreciation* to civil society actors that contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in an impartial and unbiased manner;

27. *Stresses* that such information is important for the sharing of experiences and best practices in the fight against extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, as well as extremist ideological movements;

28. *Encourages* Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the exercise of the tasks outlined in paragraph 23 above;

29. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and relevant actors to disseminate, as widely as possible, information regarding the contents of and the principles outlined in the present resolution, including through the media, but not limited to it;

30. *Decides* to remain seized of the issue.

RESOLUTION 66/144

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/460, para. 17),[224] by a recorded vote of 138 to 6, with 46 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait,

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[223] See A/65/323.

[224] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the Russian Federation.

Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

66/144. Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the comprehensive follow-up to and effective implementation of the World Conference, and in this regard underlining the importance of their full and effective implementation,

Recalling also its resolutions 64/148 of 18 December 2009 and 65/240 of 24 December 2010, in which it, inter alia, called for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,[225] which represented an important opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including by mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels, with a view to achieving concrete results,

Taking note of Human Rights Council decision 3/103 of 8 December 2006,[226] by which, heeding the decision and instruction of the World Conference, the Council established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards,

Bearing in mind the responsibility and commitments of the Human Rights Council emanating from the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference,[227]

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance manifest themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and may be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and the limitation or denial of their human rights, and recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to address multiple forms of discrimination,

Underlining the primacy of political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels needed to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Emphasizing, while acknowledging the primary responsibility of States parties to implement their obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[228] that international cooperation and technical assistance play an important role in assisting countries in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention,

Alarmed at the increase in racist violence and xenophobic ideas in many parts of the world, in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large as a result, inter alia, of the resurgent activities of associations established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters, and the persistent use of those platforms and charters to promote or incite racist ideologies,

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[225] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[226] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. II, sect. B.

[227] See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

[228] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

Underlining the importance of urgently eliminating continuing and violent trends involving racism and racial discrimination, and conscious that any form of impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy, tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes and requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Recognizing that individuals belonging to vulnerable groups, such as migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, continue to be the main victims of violence and attacks perpetrated or incited by extremist political parties, movements and groups,

Acknowledging the central role of resource mobilization, effective global partnership and international cooperation in the context of paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Durban Programme of Action for the successful realization of the primary objectives and commitments undertaken at the World Conference,

Expressing grave concern at the lack of progress made in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular key paragraphs 157 to 159 of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the continued commitment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to profiling and increasing the visibility of the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and recognizing the need for the High Commissioner to make this a cross-cutting issue in the activities and programmes of her Office,

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at its seventh and eighth sessions, held from 5 to 16 October 2009[229] and from 11 to 22 October 2010,[230] respectively, and welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group,

Noting also the progress made during the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, held in Geneva on 22 and 23 November 2010 and from 11 to 21 April 2011, and noting further the convening of the fourth session, to be held in Geneva during 2012,

Noting further the activities undertaken in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, including the first World Summit of Afro-Descendants, held in La Ceiba, Honduras, in August 2011, and the high-level summit for people of African descent, held in Salvador, Brazil, in November 2011 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Durban outcome, and looking forward to the African Diaspora Summit, to be held in South Africa in 2012,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language contributing to the education of people on the values of diversity, tolerance and fairness and as a means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Welcoming the hosting of the 2010 and 2014 International Federation of Association Football World Cups in South Africa and Brazil, respectively, and stressing the importance of making continuing use of those events to promote understanding, tolerance and peace and to promote and strengthen efforts in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

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General principles

1. *Recognizes and affirms* that a global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and evolving forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community;

2. *Acknowledges* that no derogation from the prohibition of racial discrimination, genocide, the crime of apartheid or slavery is permitted, as defined in the obligations under the relevant human rights instruments;

3. *Expresses its profound concern about and its unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including related acts of racially motivated violence, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as propaganda activities and organizations that attempt to justify or promote racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in any form;

4. *Re-emphasizes* that international cooperation is a key principle in achieving the goal of the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive follow-up to and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action[225] in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* that the basic responsibility for effectively combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lies with States, and to this end stresses that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full and effective implementation of all commitments and recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as well as the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference,[227] and in this regard welcomes the steps taken by numerous Governments;

6. *Expresses deep concern* at inadequate responses to emerging and resurgent forms of racism, racial discrimination,

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[229] See A/HRC/13/60.

[230] See A/HRC/16/64.

xenophobia and related intolerance, and urges States to adopt measures to address those scourges vigorously with a view to preventing their practice and protecting victims;

7. *Underlines* the imperative need to address all the contemporary forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which include, inter alia, incitement to such hatred, racial profiling and the propagation of racist and xenophobic acts through cyberspace, with a view to maximizing protection for victims, providing legal remedies and combating impunity;

8. *Stresses* that States and international organizations have a responsibility to ensure that measures taken in the struggle against terrorism do not discriminate in purpose or effect on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, and urges all States to rescind or refrain from all forms of racial profiling;

9. *Recognizes* that States should implement and enforce appropriate and effective legislative, judicial, regulatory and administrative measures to prevent and protect against acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, thereby contributing to the prevention of human rights violations;

10. *Also recognizes* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, social origin, property and birth or other status;

11. *Reaffirms* that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law, and also reaffirms that the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, or incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts, shall be declared offences punishable by law, in accordance with the international obligations of States, and that those prohibitions are consistent with freedom of opinion and expression;

12. *Emphasizes* that it is the responsibility of States to adopt effective measures to combat criminal acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including measures to ensure that such motivations are considered an aggravating factor for the purposes of sentencing, to prevent those crimes from going unpunished and to ensure the rule of law;

13. *Urges* all States to review and, where necessary, revise their immigration laws, policies and practices so that they are free of racial discrimination and compatible with their obligations under international human rights instruments;

14. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the commitments undertaken in paragraph 147 of the Durban Programme of Action, to take all measures necessary to combat incitement to violence motivated by racial hatred, including through the misuse of print, audiovisual and electronic media and new communications technologies, and, in collaboration with service providers, to promote the use of such technologies, including the Internet, to contribute to the fight against racism, in conformity with international standards of freedom of expression and taking all measures necessary to guarantee that right;

15. *Encourages* all States to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge of and tolerance and respect for all cultures, civilizations, religions, peoples and countries, as well as information on the follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. *Stresses* the responsibility of States to mainstream a gender perspective into the design and development of prevention, education and protection measures aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at all levels, to ensure that they effectively target the distinct situations of women and men;

II

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

17. *Reaffirms* that universal adherence to and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[228] are of paramount importance for the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and for the promotion of equality and non-discrimination in the world;

18. *Expresses grave concern* that universal ratification of the Convention has not yet been reached, despite commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[225] and calls upon those States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention as a matter of urgency;

19. *Urges*, in the above context, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to maintain on its website and issue regular updates on a list of countries that have not yet ratified the Convention and to encourage those countries to ratify it at the earliest possible time;

20. *Expresses concern* at the serious delays in the submission of overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which impede the effectiveness of the Committee, makes a strong appeal to all States parties to the Convention to comply with their treaty obligations, and reaffirms the importance of the provision of technical assistance to requesting countries in the preparation of their reports to the Committee;

21. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to ratify the amendment to article 8 of the Convention on the financing of

the Committee, and calls for adequate additional resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to enable the Committee to discharge its mandate fully;

22. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to intensify their efforts to implement the obligations that they have accepted under article 4 of the Convention, with due regard to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[231] and article 5 of the Convention;

23. *Recalls* that the Committee holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in article 5 of the Convention;

24. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the measures recommended to strengthen the implementation of the Convention as well as the functioning of the Committee;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to do their utmost to ensure that their responses to the current financial and economic crisis do not lead to increased poverty and underdevelopment and, potentially, a rise in racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against foreigners, immigrants and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities all over the world;

26. *Reaffirms* that deprivation of citizenship on the basis of race or descent is a breach of State parties' obligations to ensure non-discriminatory enjoyment of the right to nationality;

III

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and follow-up to his visits

27. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[232] and encourages relevant stakeholders to consider implementing the recommendations contained therein;

28. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution 16/33 of 25 March 2011,[233] by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of three years;

29. *Reiterates its call* to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, and calls upon States to consider responding favourably to his requests for visits so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate fully and effectively;

30. *Reaffirms* that any form of impunity condoned by public authorities for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy and tends to encourage the recurrence of such acts;

31. *Emphasizes* the obligations of States under international law to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivations, to investigate such crimes and to punish the perpetrators and that not doing so violates, and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims, and urges States to reinforce measures in this regard;

32. *Recognizes with deep concern* the increase in anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas directed against Arab, Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, as well as all religious communities, communities of people of African descent, communities of people of Asian descent, communities of indigenous people and other communities;

33. *Calls upon* States parties to fully implement legislation and other measures already in place to ensure that people of African descent are not discriminated against, and underlines in this regard the importance of supporting the programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;[234]

34. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide States, at their request, with advisory services and technical assistance to enable them to implement fully the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the human and financial assistance necessary to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to enable him to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

36. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, within his mandate, to continue giving particular attention to the negative impact of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

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[231] Resolution 217 A (III).

[232] See A/66/312 and A/66/313.

[233] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[234] See resolution 65/36.

intolerance on the full enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights;

37. *Invites* Member States to demonstrate greater commitment to fighting racism in sport by conducting educational and awareness-raising activities and by strongly condemning the perpetrators of racist incidents, in cooperation with national and international sports organizations;

38. *Recommends* that States engage in broad efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, and in that regard emphasizes the crucial role of education, including human rights education, training and learning, and a variety of awareness-raising measures which contribute to the creation of tolerant societies in which mutual understanding may be ensured;

39. *Also recommends* that all States give due attention to and closely monitor the way in which the concept of national, cultural and religious identity is debated within their societies, with a view to preventing it from being used as a tool to create artificial differences among some groups of the population;

40. *Expresses concern* at recent deeply marked tendencies within numerous societies to characterize migration as a problem and a threat to social cohesion, and in this context notes the numerous human rights challenges in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

41. *Recommends* that States conduct human rights training, including on the challenges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, for law enforcement officials, especially immigration officials and border police, so that they may act in conformity with international human rights law;

42. *Also recommends* that States collect disaggregated data in order to design appropriate anti-racial discrimination legislation and policies and monitor their effectiveness, while abiding by some key principles, including self-identification, the right to privacy, and guaranteeing the consent of those individuals concerned, and the involvement of all groups of individuals concerned, in the design and implementation of the exercise;

IV

Outcomes of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the 2009 Durban Review Conference and the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2011)

43. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and that, together with the Human Rights Council, it shall constitute an intergovernmental process for the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action[225] in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

44. *Welcomes* the adoption of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[235] whose aim is to mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels;

45. *Reaffirms* the political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference,[227] and their follow-up processes, at the national, regional and international levels, in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

46. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet elaborated their national action plans on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to comply with their commitments undertaken at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of 2001;

47. *Calls upon* all States to formulate and implement without delay, at the national, regional and international levels, policies and plans of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their gender-based manifestations;

48. *Urges* States to support the activities of existing regional bodies or centres that combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in their respective regions, and recommends the establishment of such bodies in all regions where they do not exist;

49. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the instruments enumerated in paragraph 78 of the Durban Programme of Action;

50. *Emphasizes* the fundamental and complementary role of national human rights institutions, regional bodies or centres and civil society, working jointly with States towards the elimination of all forms of racism and, in particular, towards the achievement of the objectives of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in this regard;

51. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of civil society in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular in helping States to develop

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[235] See resolution 66/3.

regulations and strategies, in taking measures and action against such forms of discrimination and through follow-up implementation;

52. *Reaffirms its commitment* to eliminating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance against indigenous peoples, and in this regard notes the attention paid to the objectives of combating prejudice, eliminating discrimination and promoting tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[236]

53. *Acknowledges* that the World Conference of 2001, which was the third world conference against racism, was significantly different from the previous two conferences, as evidenced by the inclusion in its title of two important components relating to contemporary forms of racism, namely, xenophobia and related intolerance;

54. *Also acknowledges* that the outcomes of the World Conference and the Durban Review Conference have the same status as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions in the human rights and social fields;

55. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of increasing public support for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in its realization;

56. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to compile and disseminate, within existing resources, in a single combined publication, the political declaration on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, with a view to increasing global support for and awareness of these documents, as well as to establish a programme of outreach through public information campaigns at all levels;

57. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to intensify efforts to widely distribute copies of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and encourages efforts to ensure its translation and wide dissemination;

58. *Welcomes* the adoption of the laudable initiative led by the States members of the Caribbean Community and other Member States for the establishment of a permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade as a contribution towards the fulfilment of paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, expresses its appreciation for contributions made to the voluntary fund established in this regard, and urges other countries to contribute to the fund;

59. *Takes note* of the work of the mechanisms mandated to follow up on the World Conference and the Durban Review Conference, and underlines the importance of improving their effectiveness;

60. *Calls upon* the Human Rights Council to ensure that, upon the consideration and adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[229,230] the recommendations are brought to the attention of the relevant United Nations agencies for adoption and implementation within their respective mandates;

61. *Encourages* the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, further to the recommendation of the Working Group at its tenth session on the proclamation of a Decade for People of African Descent,[237] to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming the decade starting in 2013 the Decade for People of African Descent;

62. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue mainstreaming the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference in the whole United Nations system, and, in accordance with paragraphs 136 and 137 of the outcome document, which call for the establishment of an inter-agency task force, to update the Human Rights Council in this regard;

63. *Acknowledges* the central role of resource mobilization, effective global partnership and international cooperation in the context of paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Durban Programme of Action for the successful realization of commitments undertaken at the World Conference, and takes note of the mandate of the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, especially in mobilizing the political will necessary for the successful implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandates of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards;

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[236] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[237] See A/HRC/18/45, sect. IV.B.

65. *Expresses concern* at the increasing incidence of racism in various sporting events, while noting with appreciation the efforts made by some governing bodies of the various sporting codes to combat racism, and in this regard invites all international sporting bodies to promote, through their national, regional and international federations, a world of sport free from racism and racial discrimination;

66. *Expresses serious concern* at past and recent incidents of racism in sport and at sporting events and, in this context, welcomes efforts of sports governing bodies to combat racism, including by pursuing anti-racism initiatives and by developing and applying disciplinary codes that impose sanctions for racist acts;

67. *Expresses its appreciation*, in this context, to the International Federation of Association Football for the initiative to introduce a visible theme on non-racism in football, and invites the Federation to continue this initiative at the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament to be held in Brazil;

68. *Calls upon* States to take advantage of mass sporting events as valuable outreach platforms for mobilizing people and conveying crucial messages about equality and non-discrimination;

69. *Acknowledges* the guidance and leadership role of the Human Rights Council and encourages it to continue overseeing the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Human Rights Council with all the support necessary for it to achieve its objectives in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

V

Follow-up activities

70. *Reiterates its recommendation* that future meetings of the Human Rights Council and its relevant mechanisms focusing on the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action[225] be scheduled in a manner that allows broad participation and avoids overlap with the meetings devoted to the consideration of this item in the General Assembly;

71. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with recommendations;

72. *Decides* to remain seized of this important matter at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

RESOLUTION 66/145

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/461, para. 19)[238]

66/145. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[239] as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first[240] and previous sessions,

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[238] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[239] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, including resolution 65/201 of 21 December 2010,

Reaffirming also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, containing the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, upheld the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,[241]

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, in particular the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and with honour;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the question to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

RESOLUTION 66/146

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/461, para. 19),[242] by a recorded vote of 182 to 7, with 3 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great

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[240] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[241] A/66/172.

[242] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Palestine.

Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America

Abstaining: Cameroon, South Sudan, Tonga

66/146. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Aware that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the Charter,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 entitled "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations",

Bearing in mind the International Covenants on Human Rights,[243] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[244] the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[245] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[246]

Recalling the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[247]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[248]

Recalling further the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[249] and noting in particular the reply of the Court, including on the right of peoples to self-determination, which is a right *erga omnes*,[250]

Recalling the conclusion of the Court, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,[251]

Expressing the urgent need for the resumption and accelerated advancement of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[252] and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[253] and for the speedy achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling its resolution 65/202 of 21 December 2010,

Affirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

2. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

RESOLUTION 66/147

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/461, para. 19),[254] by a recorded vote of 130 to 53, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad,

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[243] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[244] Resolution 217 A (III).

[245] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[246] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[247] See resolution 50/6.

[248] See resolution 55/2.

[249] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[250] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1, advisory opinion, para. 88; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[251] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1, advisory opinion, para. 122; see also *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 136.

[252] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[253] S/2003/529, annex.

[254] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Mexico, Switzerland, Tonga

66/147. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 65/203 of 21 December 2010, and Human Rights Council resolutions 15/12 of 30 September 2010,[255] 15/26 of 1 October 2010[256] and 18/4 of 29 September 2011,[257] as well as all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa,[258] as well as by the African Union,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[259]

Welcoming the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group of the Human Rights Council with the mandate of considering the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,

Alarmed and concerned at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries, in particular in Africa and in small States,

Deeply concerned at the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policy and economies of affected countries resulting from criminal mercenary activities,

Extremely alarmed and concerned about recent mercenary activities in some developing countries in various parts of the world, including in areas of armed conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

Concerned at the alleged involvement of mercenaries, as well as employees of some private military and security companies with mercenary-related activities, in serious human rights violations, including summary executions, enforced disappearances, rape, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, arson, pillaging and looting,

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[255] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[256] Ibid., chap. I.

[257] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[258] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1490, No. 25573.

[259] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Convinced that a comprehensive, legally binding international regulatory instrument is important for regulating private military and security companies and, in this regard, for taking measures to ensure their accountability for human rights violations and monitor their activities,

Convinced also that, notwithstanding the way in which they are used or the form that they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of all human rights by peoples,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination,[260] and expresses its appreciation for the work of the experts of the Working Group;

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* that armed conflict, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers, inter alia, encourage the demand for mercenaries on the global market;

4. *Urges once again* all States to take the steps necessary and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

5. *Requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries by private companies offering international military consultancy and security services, as well as to impose a specific ban on such companies intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;

6. *Encourages* States that import the military assistance, consultancy and security services provided by private companies to establish regulatory national mechanisms for the registering and licensing of those companies in order to ensure that imported services provided by those private companies neither impede the enjoyment of human rights nor violate human rights in the recipient country;

7. *Emphasizes its utmost concern* about the impact of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular when operating in armed conflicts, and notes that private military and security companies and their personnel are rarely held accountable for violations of human rights;

8. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the action necessary to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;[261]

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that received a visit by the Working Group and the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

10. *Condemns* recent mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of those countries and the exercise of the right of their peoples to self-determination, and stresses the importance for the Working Group of looking into sources and root causes, as well as the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur and to bring to trial those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with domestic law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

12. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without distinction, to justice;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate with and assist the judicial prosecution of those accused of mercenary activities in transparent, open and fair trials;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to continue the work already done by the previous Special Rapporteurs on the strengthening of the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a

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[260] See A/66/317.

[261] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2163, No. 37789.

new legal definition of a mercenary drafted by the Special Rapporteur in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session,[262] including the elaboration and presentation of concrete proposals on possible complementary and new standards aimed at filling existing gaps, as well as general guidelines or basic principles encouraging the further protection of human rights, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination, while facing current and emergent threats posed by mercenaries or mercenary-related activities;

15. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by those activities;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Office of the High Commissioner for its support for the holding of the five regional governmental consultations on traditional and new forms of mercenary activities as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular regarding the effects of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Working Group on the elaboration of concrete principles on the regulation of private companies offering military assistance, consultancy and other military security-related services on the international market, which it carried out after country visits and through the process of regional consultations, and in consultation with academics and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and also notes its work on the draft convention on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of private military and security companies for consideration by Member States;[263]

18. *Takes note* of the summary of the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group of the Human Rights Council to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,[264] expresses satisfaction regarding the participation of experts, including the members of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries, as resource persons at that session, and requests the Working Group on the use of mercenaries and other experts to continue to participate;

19. *Encourages* Member States to continue considering the proposal of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries regarding a possible convention for regulating private military and security companies,[265] and recommends to all Member States, including those confronted with the phenomenon of private military and security companies, as contracting States, States of operations, home States or States whose nationals are employed to work for a private military and security company, to contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group, taking into account the initial work done by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries;

20. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Working Group on the use of mercenaries in the fulfilment of its mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Working Group with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of cooperation between the Working Group and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-related activities, in order to meet the demands of its current and future activities;

22. *Requests* the Working Group to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the present resolution and to report, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session its findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;

23. *Decides* to consider at its sixty-seventh session the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

RESOLUTION 66/148

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.1, para. 22)[266]

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[262] See E/CN.4/2004/15, para. 47.

[263] See A/HRC/15/25.

[264] A/HRC/WG.10/1/CRP.2.

[265] A/65/325, annex.

[266] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

66/148. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/152 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Welcomes* the annual report of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;[267]

2. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-second and forty-third sessions[268] and on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions;[269]

3. *Invites* the Chairs of the Committees to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", within existing resources;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights[270] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[271] including all reservations and declarations, through the United Nations websites.

RESOLUTION 66/149

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.1, para. 22)[272]

66/149. World Down Syndrome Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[273] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[274] as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[275] according to which persons with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the person's active participation in the community and the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other persons, and by which States parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures to raise awareness throughout society regarding persons with disabilities,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Aware that Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health,

Recalling that adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual,

Recognizing the inherent dignity, worth and valuable contributions of persons with intellectual disabilities as promoters of the well-being and diversity of their communities, and the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices,

1. *Decides* to designate 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2012;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome;

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[267] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/65/40), vols. I and II.

[268] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 2* (E/2010/22).

[269] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 2* (E/2011/22).

[270] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[271] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, resolution 44/128, annex, and resolution 63/117, annex.

[272] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[273] See resolution 60/1.

[274] See resolution 55/2.

[275] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with Down syndrome;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

RESOLUTION 66/150

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.1, para. 22)[276]

66/150. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that no one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, that must be respected and protected under all circumstances, including in times of international or internal armed conflict or disturbance or any other public emergency, that the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is affirmed in relevant international instruments and that legal and procedural safeguards against such acts must not be subject to measures that would circumvent this right,

Recalling also that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law and that international, regional and domestic courts have held the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to be customary international law,

Recalling further the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[277] without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which contains or may contain provisions of wider application,

Emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and of abiding strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention,

Noting that, under the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[278] torture and inhuman treatment are a grave breach and that, under the statute of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[279] acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and, when committed in a situation of armed conflict, constitute war crimes,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[280] the implementation of which will make a significant contribution to the prevention and prohibition of torture, including by prohibiting secret places of detention, and encouraging all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Commending the persistent efforts of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms, and the considerable network of centres for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, to prevent and combat torture and to alleviate the suffering of victims of torture,

Deeply concerned with all acts which can amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against persons exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in all regions of the world,

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[276] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[277] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[278] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[279] Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.

[280] Resolution 61/177, annex.

1. *Condemns* all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including through intimidation, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and calls upon all States to implement fully the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Emphasizes* that States must take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat all acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, stresses that all acts of torture must be made offences under domestic criminal law, and encourages States to prohibit under domestic law acts constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of national preventive mechanisms to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, urges States to consider establishing, appointing, maintaining or enhancing independent and effective mechanisms with qualified expertise to undertake monitoring visits to places of detention, inter alia with a view to preventing acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and calls upon States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[281] to fulfil their obligation to designate or establish truly independent and effective national preventive mechanisms;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of States ensuring proper follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the relevant treaty bodies and mechanisms, including the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

5. *Condemns* any action or attempt by States or public officials to legalize, authorize or acquiesce in torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under any circumstances, including on grounds of national security or through judicial decisions, and urges States to ensure accountability of those responsible for all such acts;

6. *Encourages* States to consider establishing or maintaining appropriate national processes to record allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

7. *Stresses* that an independent, competent domestic authority must promptly, effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that such an act has been committed, and that those who encourage, order, tolerate or perpetrate such acts must be held responsible, brought to justice and punished in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence, including the officials in charge of any place of detention, or other place where persons are deprived of their liberty, where the prohibited act is found to have been committed;

8. *Recalls*, in this respect, the Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Principles)[282] as a useful tool in efforts to prevent and combat torture and the updated set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity;[283]

9. *Calls upon* all States to implement effective measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, particularly in places of detention and other places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including legal and procedural safeguards, as well as education and training of personnel who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment;

10. *Urges* States, as an important element in preventing and combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that no authority or official orders, applies, permits or tolerates any sanction or other prejudice against any person or organization for having been in contact with any national or international monitoring or preventive body active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

11. *Calls upon* all States to adopt a gender-sensitive approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to gender-based violence;

12. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[284] are fully integrated into torture prevention and protection, and welcomes the efforts of the Special Rapporteur in this regard;

13. *Encourages* all States to ensure that persons convicted of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have no subsequent involvement in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any person under arrest, detention, imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty and that persons charged with torture or other cruel, inhuman or

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[281] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2375, No. 24841.

[282] Resolution 55/89, annex.

[283] See E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1.

[284] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

degrading treatment or punishment have no involvement in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any person under arrest, detention, imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty while such charges are pending;

14. *Emphasizes* that acts of torture in armed conflict are serious violations of international humanitarian law and in this regard constitute war crimes, that acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and that the perpetrators of all acts of torture must be prosecuted and punished, and in this regard notes the efforts of the International Criminal Court to end impunity by seeking to ensure accountability and punishment of perpetrators of such acts, in accordance with the Rome Statute,[279] bearing in mind its principle of complementarity, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Rome Statute;

15. *Strongly urges* States to ensure that no statement that is established to have been made as a result of torture is invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made, encourages States to extend that prohibition to statements made as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and recognizes that adequate corroboration of statements, including confessions, used as evidence in any proceedings constitutes one safeguard for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

16. *Stresses* that States must not punish personnel for not obeying orders to commit or conceal acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

17. *Urges* States not to expel, return ("refouler"), extradite or in any other way transfer a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, stresses the importance of effective legal and procedural safeguards in this regard, and recognizes that diplomatic assurances, where used, do not release States from their obligations under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement;

18. *Recalls* that, for the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations, including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights;

19. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[277] to fulfil their obligation to submit for prosecution or extradite those alleged to have committed acts of torture, and encourages other States to do likewise, bearing in mind the need to fight impunity;

20. *Stresses* that national legal systems must ensure that victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment obtain redress without suffering any retribution for bringing complaints or giving evidence, have access to justice, are awarded fair and adequate compensation and receive appropriate social, psychological, medical and other relevant specialized rehabilitation, and urges States to establish, maintain, facilitate or support rehabilitation centres or facilities where victims of torture can receive such treatment and where effective measures for ensuring the safety of their staff and patients are taken;

21. *Recalls* its resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988 on the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and in this context stresses that ensuring that any individual arrested or detained is promptly brought before a judge or other independent judicial officer in person and permitting prompt and regular medical care and legal counsel as well as visits by family members and independent monitoring mechanisms are effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

22. *Reminds* all States that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment, and urges all States to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person and to ensure that secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished;

23. *Emphasizes* that conditions of detention must respect the dignity and human rights of detainees, highlights the importance of reflecting on this in efforts to promote respect for and protection of the rights of detainees, and notes in this regard concerns about solitary confinement when it amounts to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

24. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that have no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

25. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority, and calls upon States parties to give early consideration to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

26. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 concerning inter-State and individual communications, to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20 and to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee as soon as possible;

27. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including, in view of the high

number of reports not submitted in time, their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, and invites States parties to incorporate a gender perspective and information concerning children and juveniles and persons with disabilities when submitting reports to the Committee;

28. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee and its report submitted in accordance with article 24 of the Convention,[285] recommends that the Committee continue to include information on the follow-up by States to its recommendations, and supports the Committee in its intention to further improve the effectiveness of its working methods;

29. *Invites* the Chairs of the Committee and of the Subcommittee to present oral reports on the work of the committees and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments";

30. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with her mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to continue to provide, at the request of States, advisory services for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including for the preparation of national reports to the Committee and for the establishment and operation of national preventive mechanisms, as well as technical assistance for the development, production and distribution of teaching material for this purpose;

31. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,[286] and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to include in his recommendations proposals on the prevention and investigation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including its gender-based manifestations;

32. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to consider including in his report information on the follow-up by States to his recommendations, visits and communications, including progress made and problems encountered, and on other official contacts;

33. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his task, to supply all necessary information requested by the Special Rapporteur, to fully and expeditiously respond to and follow up on his urgent appeals, to give serious consideration to responding favourably to requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries and to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on requested visits to their countries as well as with respect to the follow-up to his recommendations;

34. *Stresses* the need for the continued regular exchange of views among the Committee, the Subcommittee, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, as well as for the pursuance of cooperation with relevant United Nations programmes, notably the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with regional organizations and mechanisms, as appropriate, and with civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to the prevention and eradication of torture, inter alia, by improving their coordination;

35. *Recognizes* the global need for international assistance to victims of torture, stresses the importance of the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, appeals to all States and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, and encourages contributions to the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee as well as education programmes of the national preventive mechanisms;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to transmit to all States the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Funds and to include the Funds on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

37. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the operations of the Funds;

38. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including, in particular, the Committee, the Subcommittee and the Special Rapporteur, commensurate with the strong support expressed by Member States for preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture, in order to enable them to discharge their mandates in a comprehensive, sustained and effective manner and taking fully into account the specific nature of their mandates;

39. *Calls upon* all States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to commemorate, on 26 June, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture;

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[285] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/66/44).

[286] See A/66/268.

40. *Decides* to consider at its sixty-seventh session the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol, the report of the Committee against Torture and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

RESOLUTION 66/151

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[287]

66/151. The universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, including developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[288] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[289] and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[290] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[290] and other human rights instruments,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy her or his civil and political rights as well as her or his economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development,[291] as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and the human person as the central subject of development, and recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recalling also that the work of the Human Rights Council is to be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Recognizing the efforts of the international community to ensure the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of, and to give equal and fair treatment to, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, while acknowledging the important role played by enhanced international cooperation in the field of human rights in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis;

2. *Recalls*, in this regard, the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues;

3. *Stresses* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

4. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

5. *Stresses* that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, and reaffirms that States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights;

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[287] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

[288] Resolution 217 A (III).

[289] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[290] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[291] Resolution 41/128, annex.

6. *Encourages* States to take into account the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights when integrating the promotion and protection of all human rights into relevant national policies and when promoting international cooperation in the field of human rights, while recalling that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights rests with the State;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to improve its efforts to take into account the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights when mainstreaming human rights into its activities, with a view to contributing to the full enjoyment of, universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to promoting the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard, as appropriate to their activities;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, treaty bodies, special procedures of the Human Rights Council and other mandate holders to continue to improve their efforts to take into account the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights in the fulfilment of their mandates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/152

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[292]

66/152. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993[293] for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000[294] and of its resolution 64/171 of 18 December 2009, Human Rights Council resolution 16/22 of 25 March 2011[295] and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling also the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held at Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[296] and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,[297]

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

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[292] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: China, Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and Paraguay.

[293] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[294] See resolution 55/2.

[295] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[296] See resolution 66/3.

[297] See E/CN.4/2001/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/46, chap. II, sect. A.

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

8. *Emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

10. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/153

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[298] by a recorded vote of 135 to 54, with 1 abstention, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Chile

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[298] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by China, and Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

66/153. Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

Reaffirming the importance of the goal of universal ratification of the United Nations human rights instruments,

Welcoming the significant increase in the number of ratifications of United Nations human rights instruments, which has especially contributed to their universality,

Reiterating the importance of the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments for the full and effective implementation of those instruments,

Recalling that, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the General Assembly as well as the former Commission on Human Rights recognized the importance of giving consideration in their membership to equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights,

Reaffirming the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as of different political, economic and legal systems,

Recognizing that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding,

Recalling that the General Assembly as well as the former Commission on Human Rights encouraged States parties to United Nations human rights treaties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect, inter alia, to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of treaty bodies,

Expressing concern at the regional imbalance in the current composition of the membership of some of the human rights treaty bodies,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing efforts to address that imbalance,

Noting in particular that the status quo tends to be detrimental to the election of experts from some regional groups, in particular the African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean and Eastern European groups,

Convinced that the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies is perfectly compatible and can be fully realized and achieved in harmony with the need to ensure gender balance and the representation of the principal legal systems in those bodies and the high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights of their members,

1. *Reiterates* that the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments should take into account, in their nomination of members to the human rights treaty bodies, that these committees shall be composed of persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience, and to equal representation of women and men, and that members shall serve in their personal capacity, and also reiterates that, in the elections to the human rights treaty bodies, consideration shall be given to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems;

2. *Encourages* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments to consider and adopt concrete actions, inter alia, the possible establishment of quota distribution systems by geographical region for the election of the members of the treaty bodies, thereby ensuring the paramount objective of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of those human rights bodies;

3. *Urges* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, including the bureau members, to include this matter in the agenda of each meeting and/or Conference of States Parties to those instruments in order to initiate a debate on ways and means to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, based on previous recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Recommends*, when considering the possible establishment of a quota by region for the election of the membership of each treaty body, the introduction of flexible procedures that encompass the following criteria:

(*a*) Each of the five regional groups established by the General Assembly must be assigned a quota of the membership of each treaty body in equivalent proportion to the number of States parties to the instrument that it represents;

(*b*) There must be provision for periodic revisions that reflect the relative changes in the geographical distribution of States parties;

(*c*) Automatic periodic revisions should be envisaged in order to avoid amending the text of the instrument when the quotas are revised;

5. *Stresses* that the process needed to achieve the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies can contribute to raising awareness of the importance of gender balance, the representation of the principal legal systems and the principle that the members of the treaty bodies shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

6. *Requests* the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies to consider at their next meeting the content of the present resolution and to submit, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, specific recommendations for the achievement of the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, as well as an update on the implementation of the present resolution in their respective bodies;

7. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit concrete recommendations on the implementation of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report in this regard, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

8. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/154

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[299] by a recorded vote of 136 to 53, with 2 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Armenia, Serbia

66/154. Human rights and cultural diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[300] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[301] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[301] as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/160 of 17 December 1999, 55/91 of 4 December 2000, 57/204 of 18 December 2002, 58/167 of 22 December 2003, 60/167 of 16 December 2005, 62/155 of 18 December 2007 and 64/174 of 18 December 2009, and recalling further its resolutions 54/113 of 10 December 1999, 55/23 of 13 November 2000 and 60/4 of 20 October 2005 concerning the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Noting that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,[302]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[303]

Recalling that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

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[299] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[300] Resolution 217 A (III).

[301] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[302] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

[303] A/66/161.

Welcoming the adoption of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations by its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001,

Welcoming also the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held on 22 September 2011, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

Welcoming further the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[304] together with its Action Plan,[305] adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

Recalling the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures,

Recognizing that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

Recognizing also that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

Considering that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred and violence among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Acknowledging the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security, committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

1. *Affirms* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to development and the achievement of national development

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[304] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. I and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[305] Ibid., annex II.

objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption on 8 September 2000 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[306] in which Member States consider, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and that it should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity;

4. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

5. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

6. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;

7. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;

8. *Welcomes* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;

9. *Recognizes* that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

10. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;

11. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

12. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

13. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

14. *Calls upon* States, international organizations and United Nations agencies and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

15. *Stresses* the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

16. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

17. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

18. *Urges* relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural

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[306] See resolution 55/2.

diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

20. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

RESOLUTION 66/155

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[307] by a recorded vote of 154 to 6, with 29 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Canada, Israel, Netherlands, Palau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine

66/155. The right to development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and, to that end, to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[308] as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[309] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[309]

Recalling also the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further that the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations, and that the individual is the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Stressing that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[310] reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and the individual as the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Reaffirming the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,[311]

Deeply concerned that the majority of indigenous peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on indigenous peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development,

Expressing deep concern over the lack of progress in the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and reaffirming the need for a successful outcome of the Doha

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[307] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by China, and Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[308] Resolution 217 A (III).

[309] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[310] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[311] See resolution 55/2.

Development Round in key areas such as agriculture, market access for non-agricultural products, trade facilitation, development and services,

Recalling the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, on the theme "Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development",[312]

Recalling also all its previous resolutions, Human Rights Council resolution 18/26 of 30 September 2011,[313] previous resolutions of the Council and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998[314] on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling further that 2011 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling the outcome of the eleventh session of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 April 2010, as contained in the report of the Working Group[315] and as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development,[316]

Recalling also the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority,

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development[317] as a development framework for Africa,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council and the members of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development in completing the 2008–2010 three-phase road map established by the Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007,[318]

Noting with sadness the passing of the former Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, and welcoming the new mandate holder,

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recognizing also that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing further that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

Recognizing that extreme poverty and hunger are one of the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for its eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices have undeniably contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing that poverty eradication is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

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[312] See TD/442 and Corr.1 and 2.

[313] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[314] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[315] A/HRC/15/23.

[316] A/HRC/15/24.

[317] A/57/304, annex.

[318] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. III, sect. A.

1. *Recognizes* the significance of all efforts under way and events held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[319] including the panel discussion on the theme "The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice", held during the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations adopted by consensus by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council at its eleventh session,[315] and calls for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors;

3. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group, as renewed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 9/3 of 24 September 2008,[320] with the recognition that the Working Group will convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council;

4. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also in this regard to lead to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[310] to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Notes* the efforts under way within the framework of the Working Group with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4,[318] and reaffirms the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group agreed upon at its eleventh session;[321]

6. *Also notes* the work of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, the mandate of which ended in 2010, including its consolidation of findings and the list of right-to-development criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria;[322]

7. *Recalls* that the Working Group will consider at its twelfth session the two compilations of views received from Governments, groups of Governments and regional groups, and from other stakeholders on the work of the high-level task force;

8. *Stresses* that it is important that the views requested of Member States and relevant stakeholders on the work of the high-level task force and the way forward take into consideration the essential features of the right to development, using as a reference the Declaration on the Right to Development and resolutions on the right to development of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

9. *Also stresses* that the above-mentioned compilations of views, criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Working Group taking appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including the elaboration of guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session,[323] congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

12. *Also stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(*a*) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

(*b*) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development[17] and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(*c*) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

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[319] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[320] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/63/53/Add.1), chap. I.

[321] See A/HRC/15/23, paras. 41–47.

[322] See A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.

[323] See E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1, sect. VIII.A.

(*d*) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority;

(*e*) To mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

13. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue considering how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

14. *Invites* Member States and all other stakeholders to participate actively in future sessions of the Social Forum, while recognizing the strong support extended to the Forum at its first four sessions by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

15. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set in those outcome documents;

16. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

17. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

18. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with each other to that end;

19. *Also reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

20. *Stresses* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international and national levels, and calls upon all States to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

21. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and the international levels;

22. *Affirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, and stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable;

23. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

24. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development due to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;

25. *Underlines* the fact that the international community is far from meeting the target set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[311] of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, reaffirms the commitment made to meet that target, and emphasizes the principle of international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the goal;

26. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

27. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;

28. *Calls once again for* the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization; the implementation of commitments on implementation-related issues and concerns; a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational; the avoidance of new forms of protectionism; and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;

29. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development; stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions; and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

30. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

31. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

32. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

33. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted on 10 June 2011 at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS,[324] stresses that further and additional measures must be taken at the national and international levels to fight HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account ongoing efforts and programmes, and reiterates the need for international assistance in this regard;

34. *Welcomes* the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011,[325] with a particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries;

35. *Recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[326] which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

36. *Stresses its commitment* to indigenous peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, and reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007;

37. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

38. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations

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[324] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[325] Resolution 66/2, annex.

[326] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Convention against Corruption,[327] particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

39. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the necessary resources;

40. *Reaffirms* the request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in mainstreaming the right to development, to undertake effectively activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in her next report to the Human Rights Council;

41. *Reaffirms* the request to the Office of the High Commissioner, in consultation with States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, to continue the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 2011;

42. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to mainstream the right to development in their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development in their policies and objectives;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

44. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group to present a verbal update to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/156

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[328] by a recorded vote of 137 to 54, with no abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: None

66/156. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on this subject, the most recent of which was resolution 65/217 of 21 December 2010, and Human Rights Council resolution 15/24 of 1 October 2010[329] and decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011,[330] as well as previous resolutions of the Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

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[327] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[328] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by China, and Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

[329] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[330] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. III.

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/217,[331] and recalling the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 52/120 of 12 December 1997[332] and 55/110 of 4 December 2000,[333]

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,[334] the Final Document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009,[335] and those adopted at previous summits and conferences, in which States members of the Movement agreed to oppose and condemn those measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, and request States applying those measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

Recalling also that, at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, States were called upon to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights[336] and also severely threatens the freedom of trade,

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,[337] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[338] the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996,[339] and their five-year reviews,

Expressing concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Expressing grave concern that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this question by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, with all their negative implications for the social humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Bearing in mind all the extraterritorial effects of any unilateral legislative, administrative and economic measures, policies and practices of a coercive nature against the development process and the enhancement of human rights in developing countries, which create obstacles to the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[340]

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[331] A/66/272.

[332] A/53/293 and Add.1.

[333] A/56/207 and Add.1.

[334] A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I.

[335] A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[336] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[337] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[338] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[339] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[340] Resolution 41/128, annex.

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[341] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[341] which provides, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Noting the continuing efforts of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. *Urges* all States to cease adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature, with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[342] and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Also urges* all States not to adopt any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinder their well-being and that create obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for his or her health and well-being and his or her right to food, medical care and education and the necessary social services, as well as to ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure;

3. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize those measures nor to apply them, as well as to take administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial applications or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

4. *Condemns* the continuing unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures, and rejects those measures, with all their extraterritorial effects, as being tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, adopted with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and because of the negative effects of those measures on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

5. *Reaffirms* that essential goods such as food and medicines should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

6. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

7. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

8. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX), in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

9. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and urges the Human Rights Council to take fully into account the negative impact of those measures, including through the enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application which are not in conformity with international law, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

10. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in her annual report to the General Assembly;

11. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[340] and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council;

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[341] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[342] Resolution 217 A (III).

12. *Recognizes* that, in the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[343] States were strongly urged to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations in building the information society;

13. *Reiterates its support* for the invitation of the Human Rights Council to all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

14. *Reaffirms* the request of the Human Rights Council that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights prepare a thematic study on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, including recommendations on actions aimed at ending such measures, taking into account all previous reports, resolutions and relevant information available to the United Nations system in this regard, to be submitted to the Council at its nineteenth session;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, to continue to collect their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations and to submit an analytical report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, while reiterating once again the need to highlight the practical and preventive measures in this respect;

16. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its sixty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

RESOLUTION 66/157

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[344]

66/157. Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[345] the International Covenants on Human Rights[346] and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in the field of human rights should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Recalling its previous resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[347] and the elimination of double standards,

Reaffirming also the importance of the objectivity, independence, impartiality and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

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[343] A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[344] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

[345] Resolution 217 A (III).

[346] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[347] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[345] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[346] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[346] and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Stresses*, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue taking duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, including in the context of the universal periodic review;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to present further practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on the question to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

12. *Decides* to consider the matter at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/158

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[348]

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[348] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

66/158. The right to food

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming also all previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[349] which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition[350] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[351] in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[352] in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action[353] and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,[354]

Reaffirming the concrete recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,[355]

Reaffirming also the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,[356]

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and that endanger food security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Recognizing that the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food is threatened to be violated on a massive scale, is a combination of several major factors, such as the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States,

Resolved to act to ensure that the human rights perspective is taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the global food crisis,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pests, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food security, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and the right to food for all,

Recognizing also the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

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[349] Resolution 217 A (III).

[350] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[351] See resolution 55/2.

[352] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[353] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13–17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[354] A/57/499, annex.

[355] E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

[356] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

Taking note of the final Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 10 March 2006,[357]

Acknowledging the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Considers it intolerable* that, as estimated by the United Nations Children's Fund, more than one third of the children who die every year before the age of 5 do so from hunger-related illness, that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of people who are undernourished is about 925 million worldwide, and that an additional 1 billion people are suffering from serious malnutrition, including as a result of the global food crisis, while, according to the latter organization, the planet could produce enough food to feed everyone around the world;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects of the world food crisis continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of this crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially on least developed countries;

5. *Also expresses its concern* that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

6. *Encourages* all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular where it contributes to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and ensuring that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership, as well as full and equal access to education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families;

7. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Encourages* all States to take steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

10. *Recognizes* the advances reached through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

11. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and public investment in rural development are essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts;

12. *Recognizes* that 80 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas and 50 per cent are small-scale farm-holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access of their products to

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[357] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 7–10 March 2006* (C 2006/REP), appendix G.

national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

13. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[358]

14. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[359] and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture[360] as a matter of priority;

15. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[361] acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face for the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

16. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts such as, inter alia, "food sovereignty" and their relation with food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

17. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all, including in the ongoing negotiations in different fields;

18. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting the enjoyment of the right to food;

19. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

20. *Calls for* the early conclusion and a successful, development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization as a contribution to creating international conditions that permit the full realization of the right to food;

21. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

22. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty;

23. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and invites once again all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding to realize the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as well as the right to food as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security[353] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[351]

24. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, including the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

25. *Urges* States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

26. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock, and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs and to the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations, for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

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[358] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[359] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[360] Ibid., vol. 2400, No. 43345.

[361] Resolution 61/295, annex.

27. *Also stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[362] should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security, while being mindful of the obligation of Member States to promote and protect the right to food;

28. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions, including Southern Africa;

29. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food;

30. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;[363]

31. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as extended by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 13/4 of 24 March 2010;[364]

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

33. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its General Comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),[365] in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights, and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

34. *Recalls* General Comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),[366] in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

35. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,[355] represent a practical tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

36. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation of the High Commissioner, the Committee and the Special Rapporteur, and encourages them to continue their cooperation in this regard;

37. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

38. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within his existing mandate;

39. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate, inter alia, through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

40. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

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[362] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[363] See A/66/262.

[364] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[365] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/2000/22 and Corr.1), annex V.

[366] Ibid., *2003, Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22), annex IV.

RESOLUTION 66/159

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[367] by a recorded vote of 130 to 54, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru

66/159. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including resolution 65/223 of 21 December 2010, and taking note of Human Rights Council resolution 18/6 of 29 September 2011,[368]

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[369] can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

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[367] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

[368] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[369] Resolution 217 A (III).

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept, but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation at all levels,

Underlining the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Deeply concerned that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors, such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, represent a global scenario that is threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures, at the global level, that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Stressing also the need for adequate financing of and technology transfer to developing countries, in particular the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change,

Having listened to the peoples of the world, and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, both of 18 June 2007,[370] and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of

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[370] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity,[371] and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

4. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(*a*) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(*b*) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(*c*) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(*d*) The right of all peoples to peace;

(*e*) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(*f*) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;

(*g*) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(*h*) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;

(*i*) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(*j*) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(*k*) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(*l*) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;

(*m*) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in economic, commercial and financial international relations;

(*n*) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;

(*o*) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, that should be exercised multilaterally;

5. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

6. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

8. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

9. *Also reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based

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[371] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

10. *Further reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

11. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

12. *Welcomes* the decision of the Human Rights Council in its resolution 18/6 to establish a new special procedures mandate of Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable order and the mandate set out in the resolution;[368]

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Independent Expert;

14. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in his or her task, to supply all necessary information requested by him or her and to consider responding favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries to enable him or her to fulfil his or her mandate more effectively;

15. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms extended by the Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

16. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations, and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

18. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his or her work;

19. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/160

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[372]

66/160. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also its resolution 65/209 of 21 December 2010, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 16/16 of 24 March 2011,[373] in which the Council took note of the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on best practices on enforced disappearances in domestic criminal legislation[374] and encouraged States to give due consideration to the good practices identified in the report,

Recalling further that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

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[372] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[373] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[374] A/HRC/16/48/Add.3 and Corr.1.

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized in the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

Acknowledging also the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance[375] on 23 December 2010, and recognizes that its implementation will be a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that ninety States have signed the Convention and thirty have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Further welcomes* the holding of the first meeting of the States parties to the Convention on 31 May 2011 and the election of the members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on that occasion, and welcomes the commencement of the work of the Committee;

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[376]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

6. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to continue making efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Chair of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item on the promotion and protection of human rights;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/161

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108),[377] by a recorded vote of 137 to 54, with no abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United

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[375] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[376] A/66/284.

[377] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: None

66/161. Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing, in particular, the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[378] as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993[379] and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,[380]

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[381] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[381]

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, and underlining that 2011 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[382] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third[383] and twenty-fourth[384] special sessions of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 10 June 2000 and in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, respectively,

Recalling also its resolutions 64/174 of 18 December 2009 and 65/216 of 21 December 2010,

Recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Realizing that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more exposed to external developments, positive as well as negative, inter alia, in the field of human rights,

Realizing also that globalization is not merely an economic process, but that it also has social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which have an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement the commitments made in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields, and reaffirming, in particular, the commitment contained in paragraphs 19 and 47 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome[385] to promote fair globalization and the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind, and aware of the risk that globalization poses more of a threat to cultural diversity if the developing world remains poor and marginalized,

Recognizing also that multilateral mechanisms have a unique role to play in meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization,

Realizing the need to consider the challenges and opportunities linked to globalization with a view to addressing such challenges and building on possible opportunities in order to achieve the full enjoyment of all human rights,

Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and the need to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy,

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[378] Resolution 217 A (III).

[379] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[380] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[381] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[382] See resolution 55/2.

[383] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[384] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[385] See resolution 60/1.

Expressing grave concern at the negative impact of international financial turmoil on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly in the light of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, which has an adverse impact on the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that developing countries are in a more vulnerable situation when facing such impact and that regional economic cooperation and development strategies and programmes can play a role in mitigating such impact,

Expressing deep concern at the negative impact of the continuing global food and energy crises and climate challenges on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights for all,

Recognizing that globalization should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin the corpus of human rights, such as equity, participation, accountability, non-discrimination at both the national and the international levels, respect for diversity, tolerance and international cooperation and solidarity,

Emphasizing that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full realization and effective enjoyment of human rights and that its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community,

Acknowledging that there is greater acceptance that the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that, for many developing countries, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and to provide basic services to realize economic, social and cultural rights,

Strongly reiterating the determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit, that are described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication,

Gravely concerned at the inadequacy of measures to narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, which has contributed to, inter alia, deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all human rights,

Emphasizing also that human beings strive for a world that is respectful of human rights and cultural diversity and that, in this regard, they work to ensure that all activities, including those affected by globalization, are consistent with those aims,

1. *Recognizes* that, while globalization, by its impact on, inter alia, the role of the State, may affect human rights, the promotion and protection of all human rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State;

2. *Emphasizes* that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies and international obligations and commitments is imperative for an enabling environment for development and an inclusive and equitable globalization;

3. *Reaffirms* that narrowing the gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is an explicit goal at the national and international levels, as part of the effort to create an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

4. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to create an environment at both the national and the global levels that is conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty by, inter alia, promoting good governance within each country and at the international level, eliminating protectionism, enhancing transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and committing to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

5. *Recognizes* the impacts that the global financial and economic crisis is still having on the ability of countries, particularly developing countries, to mobilize resources for development and to address the impact of this crisis, and, in this context, calls upon all States and the international community to alleviate, in an inclusive and development-oriented manner, any negative impacts of this crisis on the realization and the effective enjoyment of all human rights;

6. *Also recognizes* that, while globalization offers great opportunities, the fact that its benefits are very unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed represents an aspect of the process that affects the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights,[386] which focuses on the liberalization of agricultural trade and its impact on the realization of the right to development, including the right to food, and takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

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[386] E/CN.4/2002/54.

8. *Reaffirms* the international commitment to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow, and reiterates that the relevant United Nations organizations should be assured the resources needed to expand and enhance their food assistance, and support social safety net programmes designed to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local or regional purchase;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved;

10. *Recognizes* that the responsible operations of transnational corporations and other business enterprises can contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular economic, social and cultural rights;

11. *Also recognizes* that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the global level to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable and have a human face, thus contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights;

12. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

13. *Affirms* that globalization is a complex process of structural transformation, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which has an impact on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

14. *Also affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that promotes and protects human rights while ensuring respect for the cultural diversity of all;

15. *Underlines*, therefore, the need to continue to analyse the consequences of globalization for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[387] and requests him to continue to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a substantive report on the subject based on these views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

RESOLUTION 66/162

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[388]

66/162. Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/105 of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/34 B of 20 November 2000 and 55/233 of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000, its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 and its resolutions 58/176 of 22 December 2003, 59/183 of 20 December 2004, 60/151 of 16 December 2005, 61/158 of 19 December 2006, 62/221 of 22 December 2007, 63/177 of 18 December 2008 and 64/165 of 18 December 2009 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling further that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[389]

Recalling the report of the High Commissioner,[390]

Taking note of the holding of the twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in N'Djamena from 9 to 13 November 2009, in Kinshasa from 26 to 30 April 2010, in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010 and in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011,

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[387] A/66/293.

[388] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[389] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[390] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,[391]

Welcoming the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[392] in particular the decision confirmed therein to double the regular budget of the Office of the High Commissioner over the subsequent five years,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the ongoing activities of the Centre in cooperation with the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States and Rwanda;

4. *Takes note* of the strategic thematic priorities of the Centre for the period 2012–2013, such as elimination of discrimination, focusing on the rights of indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and their families, women's human rights and gender issues; strengthening the rule of law and combating impunity; promotion of democracy and good governance; promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights; and strengthening national human rights institutions and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Centre;

6. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams of the subregion;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

8. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly[393] in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office of the High Commissioner to enable the Centre to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African subregion;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/163

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[394]

66/163. Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring free and fair electoral processes and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that international organizations provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

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[391] A/66/325.

[392] See resolution 60/1.

[393] Resolutions 61/158, 62/221, 63/177 and 64/165.

[394] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

Recognizing the importance of fair, periodic and genuine elections, including in new democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing also that Member States are responsible for ensuring free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering of vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 64/155 of 18 December 2009,

Reaffirming that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that increasing numbers of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and may contribute to regional stability,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,[395] in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right freely to choose representatives through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[396] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[397] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[398] in particular that citizens, without distinction of any kind, have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting fair and free elections, of respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom,

Recognizing the need for strengthening democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote the participation of women on equal terms with men, increase citizen participation and provide civic education in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that preserve the right of peaceful assembly,

Noting also that the international community can contribute to creating conditions which could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

Reiterating that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the importance of international election observation for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries, to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

Acknowledging also that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

Welcoming the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Recognizing that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable and cost-effective electoral technology, supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

Recognizing also the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

Welcoming the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,

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[395] Resolution 217 A (III).

[396] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[397] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[398] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[399]

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;

3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;

4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in his role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to inform Member States regularly about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;

5. *Requests* that the United Nations continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission for providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for these elections, including to consider establishing internal funding where feasible;

7. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, based on a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may additionally provide assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

9. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

10. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, and, bearing in mind that the Fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Fund;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue responding to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the Organization's electoral institutional memory, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

13. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance, and encourages further engagement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in this context;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters,

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[399] A/66/314.

including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States.

RESOLUTION 66/164

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[400]

66/164. Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms annexed to that resolution, and reiterating the importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

Recalling also all previous resolutions on this subject, in particular its resolution 64/163 of 18 December 2009 and Human Rights Council resolutions 13/13 of 25 March 2010[401] and 16/5 of 24 March 2011,[402]

Noting with deep concern that in many countries persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as a result of those activities, including through restrictions on freedom of association or expression or the right to peaceful assembly, or abuse of civil or criminal proceedings,

Gravely concerned that, in some instances, national security and counter-terrorism legislation and other measures have been misused to target human rights defenders or have hindered their work and safety in a manner contrary to international law,

Gravely concerned also by the continuing high level of human rights violations committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world and by the fact that in many countries impunity for threats, attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders persists and that this has a negative impact on their work and safety,

Gravely concerned further by the targeting of human rights defenders for reporting and seeking information on human rights violations,

Gravely concerned by the considerable number of communications received by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights defenders that, together with the reports submitted by some of the other special procedure mechanisms, indicates the serious nature of the risks faced by human rights defenders, in particular women human rights defenders,

Stressing the important role that individuals, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups, organs of society and independent national institutions play in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including in addressing all forms of human rights violations, combating impunity, fighting poverty and discrimination, and promoting access to justice, democracy, tolerance, human dignity and the right to development, and recalling that all have rights as well as responsibilities and duties within and towards the community,

Recognizing the substantial role that human rights defenders can play in supporting efforts to strengthen peace and development, through dialogue, openness, participation and justice, including by monitoring, reporting on and contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing also that new forms of communication can serve as important tools for human rights defenders to promote and strive for the protection of human rights,

Recalling that, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[403] certain rights are recognized as non-derogable in any circumstances and that any measures derogating from other provisions of the

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[400] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

[401] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[402] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[403] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, and underlining the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations, as stated in General Comment No. 29 on states of emergency adopted by the Human Rights Committee on 24 July 2001,[404]

Welcoming the cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and other special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as other relevant United Nations bodies, offices, departments, specialized agencies and personnel, both at Headquarters and at the country level, within their mandates,

Welcoming also regional initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthened cooperation between international and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders, and encouraging further development in this regard,

Welcoming further the steps taken by some States towards adopting national policies or legislation for the protection of individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights, including as follow-up to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights rests with the State, reaffirming that national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the State in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the juridical framework within which human rights defenders conduct their activities, and noting with deep concern that the activities of some non-State actors pose a major threat to the security of human rights defenders,

Emphasizing the need for strong and effective measures for the protection of human rights defenders,

1. *Calls upon* all States to promote and give full effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,[405] including by taking, as appropriate, practical steps to that end;

2. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights defenders[406] and her contribution to the effective promotion of the Declaration and the improvement of the protection of human rights defenders worldwide;

3. *Condemns* all human rights violations committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration and all other relevant human rights instruments, to prevent and eliminate such human rights violations;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take all measures necessary to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, at both the local and the national levels, including in times of armed conflict and peacebuilding;

5. *Calls upon* States to respect, protect and ensure the rights to freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders and in this regard to ensure, where procedures governing registration of civil society organizations exist, that these are transparent, non-discriminatory, expeditious, inexpensive, allow for the possibility to appeal and avoid requiring re-registration, in accordance with national legislation, and are in conformity with international human rights law;

6. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that human rights defenders can perform their important role in the context of peaceful protests, in accordance with national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law, and in this regard to ensure that no one is subject to excessive and indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearance, abuse of criminal and civil proceedings or threats of such acts;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that any measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular under international human rights law, and do not hinder the work and safety of individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights;

8. *Also urges* States to take appropriate measures to address the question of impunity for attacks, threats and acts of intimidation committed by State and non-State actors, including cases of gender-based violence, against human rights defenders and their relatives, including by ensuring that complaints from human rights defenders are promptly investigated and addressed in a transparent, independent and accountable manner;

9. *Urges* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of her mandate and to provide all information in a timely manner, as well as to respond without undue delay to communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur;

10. *Calls upon* States to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries, and urges them to enter into a constructive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur with respect to the follow-up to and implementation of her recommendations, so as to enable the Special Rapporteur to fulfil her mandate even more effectively;

11. *Strongly encourages* States to translate the Declaration and to take measures to ensure its widest possible dissemination at the national and local levels, among public

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[404] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/56/40), vol. I, annex VI.

[405] Resolution 53/144, annex.

[406] See A/63/288, A/64/226, A/65/223 and A/66/203.

officials as well as individuals, groups, organs of society and other non-State actors;

12. *Encourages* States to promote awareness and training in regard to the Declaration in order to enable officials, agencies, authorities and members of the judiciary to observe the provisions of the Declaration and thus to promote better understanding and respect for individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights, as well as for their work;

13. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies, including at the country level, within their respective mandates and working in cooperation with States, to give due consideration to the Declaration and to the reports of the Special Rapporteur, and in this context requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to draw the attention of all relevant United Nations bodies, including at the country level, to the reports of the Special Rapporteur;

14. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as other relevant United Nations bodies, offices, departments and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, to consider ways in which they can assist States in strengthening the role and security of human rights defenders, including in situations of armed conflict and peacebuilding;

15. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including through country visits;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and to the Human Rights Council in accordance with her mandate;

17. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/165

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[407]

66/165. Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border,[408]

Recognizing that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country,

Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including armed conflict, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for the international community,

Recognizing that natural disasters are a cause of internal displacement, and concerned about factors, such as climate change, that are expected to exacerbate the impact of natural hazards, and climate-related events,

Recognizing also that the consequences of hazards can be prevented or substantially mitigated by integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national development policies and programmes,

Conscious of the human rights and humanitarian dimensions of the problem of internally displaced persons, including in long-term displacement situations, and the responsibilities of States and the international community to strengthen further their protection and assistance,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Reaffirming that all persons, including those internally displaced, have the right to freedom of movement and residence and should be protected against being arbitrarily displaced,[409]

Noting the international community's growing awareness of the issue of internally displaced persons worldwide and the urgency of addressing the root causes of their displacement and finding durable solutions, including voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country,

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[407] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

[408] See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex), introduction, para. 2.

[409] See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, principle 6.

Recalling the relevant norms of international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[410]

Recalling also the relevance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949[411] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[412] as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

Noting with appreciation the adoption by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons and the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[413] as steps contributing to the strengthening of the regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa,

Welcoming the increasing dissemination, promotion and application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Deploring practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity, and the unlawful deportation, transfer, or ordering the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,[414]

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported the work of the former Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and, according to their roles and responsibilities, have helped to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and national Governments, the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

Welcoming also the priorities set by the Special Rapporteur, contained in his report to the Human Rights Council,[415]

Acknowledging with appreciation the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with relevant international bodies,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[416] regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement,

Recalling also its resolution 64/162 of 18 December 2009 and Human Rights Council resolution 14/6 of 17 June 2010,[417]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons[415] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that he plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for his ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue his analysis of the root causes of internal displacement, the needs and human rights of those displaced, measures of prevention, including early warning, and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, and, in the latter regard, to use in his activities the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,[418] and also encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

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[410] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

[411] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[412] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[413] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[414] Art. 7, paras. 1 (*d*) and 2 (*d*), and art. 8, paras. 2 (*a*) (vii) and 2 (*e*) (viii) (see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544).

[415] A/HRC/16/43.

[416] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[417] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[418] A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

4. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent displacement or to provide assistance and protection to those who are forced to flee;

5. *Calls upon* States to provide durable solutions, and encourages strengthened international cooperation, including through the provision of resources and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance, protection and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[413] during the summit of the African Union held in Kampala in October 2009, and invites African States to consider signing and/or ratifying the Convention;

7. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs of internally displaced persons, on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[410] and ensure that humanitarian assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

8. *Expresses particular concern* at the grave problems faced by many internally displaced women and children, including violence and abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, forced recruitment and abduction, and encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance, protection and development needs, as well as those of other groups with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant United Nations resolutions;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

10. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process, are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

11. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post-conflict situations in cases under consideration;

12. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, welcomes the fact that an increasing number of States, United Nations organizations and regional and non-governmental organizations are applying them as a standard, and encourages all relevant actors to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement;

13. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the Special Rapporteur in his dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests him to continue his efforts to further the dissemination, promotion and application of the Guiding Principles and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

14. *Encourages* States to continue to develop and implement domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way, including through the identification of a national focal point within the Government for issues of internal displacement, and through the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement;

16. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur for visits so

as to enable him to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

17. *Invites* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons, and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in these respects, including by further improving access to internally displaced persons and by maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons where they exist;

19. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for the coordination of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives taken in order to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

20. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement, and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in the consolidated appeals process, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

22. *Also notes with appreciation* the increasing role of national human rights institutions in assisting internally displaced persons and in promoting and protecting their human rights;

23. *Recognizes* the relevance of the global database on internally displaced persons advocated by the Special Rapporteur, and encourages the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and Governments to continue to collaborate on and support this effort, including by providing financial resources and relevant data on situations of internal displacement;

24. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to carry out his mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies, to continue to support the Special Rapporteur;

26. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for his work;

27. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to prepare, for the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

28. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its sixty-eighth session.

RESOLUTION 66/166

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[419]

66/166. Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities annexed to that resolution, and bearing in mind article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[420] as well as other relevant existing international standards and national legislation,

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[419] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 of 28 September 2007, by which the Council established the Forum on Minority Issues,[421] 16/6 of 24 March 2011 on the mandate of the Independent Expert on minority issues[422] and 18/3 of 29 September 2011 on the panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration,[423]

Affirming that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and dialogue between these minorities and the rest of society, as well as the constructive and inclusive development of practices and institutional arrangements to accommodate diversity within societies, contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts involving the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Expressing concern at the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts involving persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and that they often suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflict resulting in the violation of their human rights and are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, inter alia, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Emphasizing the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as well as in early warning and awareness-raising measures to address problems regarding minority situations,

Emphasizing also the need for reinforced efforts to meet the goal of the full realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them,

Emphasizing further the fundamental importance of human rights education, training and learning as well as of dialogue and interaction among all relevant stakeholders and members of society on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as an integral part of the development of society as a whole, including the sharing of best practices such as for the promotion of mutual understanding of minority issues, managing diversity by recognizing plural identities and promoting inclusive and stable societies as well as social cohesion therein,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an important role to play regarding the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, taking due account of, and giving effect to, the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Noting that 2012 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Affirming that the anniversary offers an important opportunity to reflect on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Recognizing, in this context, the important role played by the Independent Expert on minority issues in promoting the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,[424] and draws attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[425] including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including through the encouragement of conditions for the promotion of their identity, the provision of adequate education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic,

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[420] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[421] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. I, sect. A.

[422] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[423] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[424] Resolution 47/135, annex.

[425] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country, without discrimination, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

3. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, inter alia, constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures, for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and appeals to States to cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally, in particular on the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with the Declaration, in order to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

4. *Calls upon* States to give special attention to the situation and specific needs of women and children belonging to minorities while promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

5. *Encourages* States, in their follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to include aspects relating to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in their national plans of action and, in this context, to take forms of multiple discrimination fully into account;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Independent Expert on minority issues and its special focus on the role of the protection of minority rights in conflict prevention;[426]

7. *Calls upon* States to integrate the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as effective non-discrimination and equality for all, into strategies for the prevention and resolution of conflicts involving these minorities, while ensuring their full and effective participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of such strategies;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including in the context of the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in resolving existing or potential situations involving minorities;

9. *Commends* the Independent Expert on minority issues for the work that has been done and the important role played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and for the ongoing efforts to promote and protect their rights in order to ensure equitable development and peaceful and stable societies, including through close cooperation with Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations;

10. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert on minority issues in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated to her, to provide her with all the necessary information requested and to seriously consider responding promptly and favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries in order to enable her to fulfil her duties effectively;

11. *Encourages* the specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop regular dialogue and cooperation with the mandate holder as well as to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the successful completion of the first three sessions of the Forum on Minority Issues, addressing the right to education, the right to effective political participation and the right to participation in economic life and which, through the widespread participation of stakeholders, provided an important platform for promoting dialogue on these topics, and encourages States to take into consideration, as appropriate, relevant recommendations of the Forum;

13. *Invites* States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions as well as academics and experts on minority issues to continue to participate actively in the sessions of the Forum on Minority Issues;

14. *Welcomes* the decision of the Human Rights Council to convene at its nineteenth session a panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, with a particular focus on its implementation as well as on achievements, best practices and challenges in this regard;[423]

15. *Welcomes* the inter-agency cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on minority issues, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and urges them to further increase their cooperation by, inter alia, developing policies on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, drawing also on relevant outcomes of the Forum on Minority Issues;

16. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue her efforts to improve coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or

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[426] See A/HRC/16/45.

ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and to take the work of relevant regional organizations active in the field of human rights into account in her endeavours;

17. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to continue to promote, within her mandate, the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and to engage in a dialogue with Governments for that purpose and regularly update and disseminate widely the United Nations Guide for Minorities;

18. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular those from developing countries, in minority-related activities organized by the United Nations, in particular the activities of its human rights bodies, and in doing so to give particular attention to ensuring the participation of young people and women;

19. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, when considering reports submitted by States parties as well as special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations and rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

20. *Reaffirms* that the universal periodic review, as well as the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, constitute important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in that regard calls upon States to effectively follow up on accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and further encourages States parties to give serious consideration to the follow-up to treaty body recommendations on the matter;

21. *Invites* the Independent Expert on minority issues to report annually to the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, the Independent Expert on minority issues and relevant United Nations entities, within existing resources, as well as by Member States, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

23. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/167

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[427]

66/167. Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[428] provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 of 24 March 2011,[429]

Reaffirming the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance,

Deeply concerned about incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

Deploring any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

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[427] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Australia, Brazil, Senegal, Thailand, and United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation).

[428] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[429] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

Strongly deploring, further, all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Concerned about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief,

Noting with deep concern the instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence occurring in many parts of the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Expressing concern at manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among individuals composing different nations, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, which contribute to promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Underlining the fact that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining also the importance of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increase interfaith and intercultural efforts and expand human rights education is an important first step in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Welcoming the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[430] and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is expected to play as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;

2. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;

3. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

4. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;

5. *Reiterates* the call made by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council upon all States to take the following actions to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect:

(*a*) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;

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[430] Resolution 217 A (III).

(*b*) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities, and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

(*c*) Encouraging the training of Government officials in effective outreach strategies;

(*d*) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination, and developing strategies to counter those causes;

(*e*) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

(*f*) Adopting measures to criminalize the incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

(*g*) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

(*h*) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

6. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion or belief;

(*b*) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

(*c*) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

(*d*) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other law enforcement investigative procedures;

7. *Also calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote the full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines, and to take measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

8. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

9. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in her reports to the Human Rights Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/168

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[431]

66/168. Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling also article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[432] article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[433] and other relevant human rights provisions,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including resolution 65/211 of 21 December 2010, and Human Rights Council resolution 16/13 of 24 March 2011,[434]

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[431] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

[432] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[433] Resolution 217 A (III).

Recognizing the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

Considering that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief should be fully respected and guaranteed,

Reaffirming that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or not to have, or to adopt, a religion or belief of one's own choice, and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance,

Deeply concerned at continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals and members of religious communities and religious minorities around the world and at the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as also noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

Concerned that acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities are sometimes tolerated or encouraged by official authorities,

Concerned also at the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and at the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

Convinced of the need to address the rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the rights of individuals, the situations of violence and discrimination that affect many women and other individuals on the grounds or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with cultural and traditional practices and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

Seriously concerned about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining the importance of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of, and its respect for, diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Strongly condemns* all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, as well as violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

2. *Stresses* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

3. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

4. *Also emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses further the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

5. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia;

6. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

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[434] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

7. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

8. *Recognizes with concern* the situation of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, children, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrants, as regards their ability to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief;

9. *Emphasizes* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

10. *Also emphasizes* that no religion should be equated with terrorism, as this may have adverse consequences on the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

11. *Deplores* the continued existence of instances of religious intolerance, as well as emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief, inter alia:

(*a*) Instances of intolerance and violence directed against members of many religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world;

(*b*) Incidents of religious hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence, which may be manifested by the derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

(*c*) Attacks on or destruction of religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of members of communities holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

(*d*) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one's spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[432] as well as other international instruments;

(*e*) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

12. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

(*a*) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction, inter alia, by providing access to justice and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely practise one's religion, including the right to change one's religion or belief, is violated;

(*b*) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one within their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief and that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

(*c*) To end violations of the human rights of women and to devote particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

(*d*) To ensure that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits and to ensure that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination on the basis of religion or belief;

(*e*) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

(*f*) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

(*g*) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief and their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes, and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

(*h*) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

(*i*) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that all necessary and appropriate awareness-raising, education or training is provided;

(*j*) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to members of religious minorities in all parts of the world;

(*k*) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in the society at large, a wider knowledge of different religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(*l*) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

13. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief;

14. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

15. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[435] and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

16. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in as many different languages as possible, and promote its implementation;

17. *Welcomes* the work and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on freedom of religion or belief, in particular his comments on interreligious communication;[436]

18. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to his requests to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge his mandate;

20. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

21. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/169

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[437]

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[435] See resolution 36/55.

[436] See A/66/156.

[437] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

66/169. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the most recent of which was resolution 64/161 of 18 December 2009, and those of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning national institutions and their role in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of independent, pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ("the Paris Principles"),[438]

Reaffirming the important role that such national institutions play and will continue to play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in strengthening participation and the rule of law and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 65/207 of 21 December 2010 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles, and recognizing also in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and those national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[439] which reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities and their role in preventing and remedying human rights violations, in disseminating information on human rights and in education in human rights,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and that all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the programme of action adopted by national institutions, at their meeting held in Vienna in June 1993 during the World Conference on Human Rights,[440] for the promotion and protection of human rights, in which it was recommended that United Nations activities and programmes should be reinforced to meet the requests for assistance from States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights[441] and on the accreditation process of the International Coordinating Committee,[442]

Welcoming the strengthening in all regions of regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and noting with appreciation the continuing work of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[443] and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles;[438]

3. *Recognizes* the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in working together with Governments to ensure full respect for human rights at the national level, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights mechanisms;

4. *Welcomes* the increasingly important role of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in supporting cooperation between their Governments and the

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[438] Resolution 48/134, annex.

[439] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[440] See A/CONF.157/NI/6.

[441] A/HRC/16/76.

[442] A/HRC/16/77.

[443] A/66/274.

United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights;

5. *Recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[439] it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

6. *Encourages* Member States to establish effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

7. *Welcomes* the growing number of States establishing or considering the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and welcomes, in particular, the growing number of States that have accepted recommendations to establish national institutions compliant with the Paris Principles made through the universal periodic review and, where relevant, by treaty bodies and special procedures;

8. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to continue to play an active role in preventing and combating all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international instruments;

9. *Recognizes* the role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, in both preparation and follow-up, and the special procedures, as well as in the human rights treaty bodies, in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007[444] and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005;[445]

10. *Welcomes* the strengthening of opportunities to contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council for national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, as stipulated in the Council review outcome document adopted by the General Assembly by resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and encourages national human rights institutions to make use of these participatory opportunities;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and stability of national human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

12. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions;

13. *Underlines* the importance of the autonomy and independence of Ombudsman institutions, encourages increased cooperation between national human rights institutions and regional and international associations of Ombudsmen, and also encourages Ombudsman institutions to actively draw on the standards enumerated in international instruments and the Paris Principles to strengthen their independence and increase their capacity to act as national human rights protection mechanisms;

14. *Commends* the high priority given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to work on national human rights institutions, encourages the High Commissioner, in view of the expanded activities relating to national institutions, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national institutions, and invites Governments to contribute additional voluntary funds to that end;

15. *Encourages* all United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as agencies, funds and programmes to work within their respective mandates with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law, and in this regard welcomes the efforts made by the High Commissioner to develop partnerships in support of national institutions, including the emerging tripartite partnership among the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the High Commissioner and the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

16. *Welcomes* the important role played by the International Coordinating Committee, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assisting Governments, when requested, in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles, in assessing the conformity of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles and in providing technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions, upon request, with a view to enhancing their compliance with the Paris Principles;

17. *Encourages* national institutions, including Ombudsman and mediator institutions, to seek accreditation status through the International Coordinating Committee;

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[444] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

[445] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

18. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions and to support the work of the International Coordinating Committee and its regional coordinating networks in this regard, including through support for the relevant technical assistance programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance necessary for holding international and regional meetings of national institutions, including meetings of the International Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/170

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[446]

66/170. International Day of the Girl Child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/145 of 18 December 2009 and all other relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recalling also all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[447] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[448] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[449] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[450]

Recognizing that empowerment of and investment in girls, which are critical for economic growth, the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, as well as boys and men and the wider community,

1. *Decides* to designate 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, to be observed every year beginning in 2012;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe the International Day of the Girl Child, and to raise awareness of the situation of girls around the world;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

RESOLUTION 66/171

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[451]

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[446] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia.

[447] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[448] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[449] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[450] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[451] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

66/171. Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[452]

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[453]

Reaffirming the fundamental importance, including in response to terrorism and the fear of terrorism, of respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

Reaffirming also that States are under the obligation to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

Reaffirming further that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Reiterating the important contribution of measures taken at all levels against terrorism, consistent with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, to the functioning of democratic institutions and the maintenance of peace and security and thereby to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the need to continue this fight, including through strengthening international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in this respect,

Deeply deploring the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism, as well as violations of international refugee and humanitarian law,

Noting with concern measures that can undermine human rights and the rule of law, such as the detention of persons suspected of acts of terrorism in the absence of a legal basis for detention and due process guarantees, the deprivation of liberty that amounts to placing a detained person outside the protection of the law, the trial of suspects without fundamental judicial guarantees, the illegal deprivation of liberty and transfer of individuals suspected of terrorist activities, and the return of suspects to countries without individual assessment of the risk of there being substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, and limitations to effective scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures,

Stressing that all measures used in the fight against terrorism, including the profiling of individuals and the use of diplomatic assurances, memorandums of understanding and other transfer agreements or arrangements, must be in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Stressing also that a criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, including due process and fair trial guarantees, is one of the best means for effectively countering terrorism and ensuring accountability,

Recalling article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,[454]

Reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renewing its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

Recognizing that respect for all human rights, respect for democracy and respect for the rule of law are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and of abiding strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[455] in the fight against terrorism,

Recalling its resolution 65/221 of 21 December 2010 and Human Rights Council resolution 13/26 of 26 March 2010[456] and other relevant resolutions and decisions as stated in the preamble to resolution 65/221, and welcoming the efforts of all relevant stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, by which it adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and its resolution 64/297 of 8 September 2010 on the review of the Strategy, and reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism,

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[452] Resolution 217 A (III).

[453] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[454] See sect. I, para. 17, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III).

[455] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[456] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 15/15 of 30 September 2010,[457] by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

Recalling its resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009 and the annex thereto entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations", in particular the provisions of the annex regarding listing and delisting procedures,

1. *Reaffirms* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

2. *Deeply deplores* the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, expresses its profound solidarity with them, and stresses the importance of providing them with assistance;

3. *Expresses serious concern* at the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism;

4. *Reaffirms* that all counter-terrorism measures should be implemented in accordance with international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, thereby taking into full consideration the human rights of all, including persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and in this regard must not be discriminatory on grounds such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin;

5. *Also reaffirms* the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[458] to respect certain rights as non-derogable in any circumstances, recalls, in regard to all other Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, and underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations,[459] and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

6. *Urges* States, while countering terrorism:

(*a*) To fully comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, with regard to the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(*b*) To take all steps necessary to ensure that persons deprived of liberty, regardless of the place of arrest or detention, benefit from the guarantees to which they are entitled under international law, including the review of the detention and other fundamental judicial guarantees;

(*c*) To ensure that no form of deprivation of liberty places a detained person outside the protection of the law, and to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person, in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

(*d*) To take all steps necessary to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release;

(*e*) To treat all prisoners in all places of detention in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

(*f*) To respect the right of persons to equality before the law, courts and tribunals and to a fair trial as provided for in international law, including international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and international humanitarian and refugee law;

(*g*) To safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with the right to privacy are regulated by law, and subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other means;

(*h*) To protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, bearing in mind that certain counter-terrorism measures may have an impact on the enjoyment of these rights;

(*i*) To ensure that guidelines and practices in all border control operations and other pre-entry mechanisms are clear and fully respect their obligations under international law, particularly international refugee and human rights law, towards persons seeking international protection;

(*j*) To fully respect non-refoulement obligations under international refugee and human rights law and, at the same time, to review, with full respect for these obligations and other legal safeguards, the validity of a refugee status decision in an individual case if credible and relevant evidence comes to light that indicates that the person in question has committed any criminal acts, including terrorist acts, falling under the exclusion clauses under international refugee law;

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[457] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[458] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[459] See, for example, General Comment No. 29 on states of emergency adopted by the Human Rights Committee on 24 July 2001.

(*k*) To refrain from returning persons, including in cases related to terrorism, to their countries of origin or to a third State whenever such transfer would be contrary to their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, including in cases where they are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, or where their life or freedom would be threatened, in violation of international refugee law, on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, bearing in mind obligations that States may have to prosecute individuals not returned;

(*l*) Insofar as such an act runs contrary to their obligations under international law, not to expose individuals to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by way of return to another country;

(*m*) To ensure that their laws criminalizing acts of terrorism are accessible, formulated with precision, non-discriminatory, non-retroactive and in accordance with international law, including human rights law;

(*n*) Not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law, including on racial, ethnic and/or religious grounds;

(*o*) To ensure that the interrogation methods used against terrorism suspects are consistent with their international obligations and are reviewed on a regular basis to prevent the risk of violations of their obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

(*p*) To ensure that any person whose human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated has access to an effective and enforceable remedy within a reasonable time and that victims of such violations receive adequate, effective and prompt reparations, where appropriate, including by bringing to justice those responsible for such violations;

(*q*) To ensure due process guarantees, consistent with all relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[452] and their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[458] the Geneva Conventions of 1949[460] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[461] and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[462] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[463] in their respective fields of applicability;

(*r*) To shape, review and implement all counter-terrorism measures in accordance with the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination;

7. *Also urges* States, while countering terrorism, to take [illegible] account relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on human rights, and encourages them to give due consideration to the recommendations of the special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and to the relevant comments and views of United Nations human rights treaty bodies;

8. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[464] the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism, including by prohibiting places of secret detention, and encourages all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

9. *Encourages* all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[455] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[465] the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

11. *Recognizes* the need to continue ensuring that fair and clear procedures under the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime are strengthened in order to enhance their efficiency and transparency, and welcomes and encourages the ongoing efforts of the Security Council in support of these objectives, including by supporting the enhanced role of the office of the ombudsperson and continuing to review all the names of individuals and entities in the regime, while emphasizing the importance of these sanctions in countering terrorism;

12. *Urges* States, while ensuring full compliance with their international obligations, to ensure the rule of law and to include adequate human rights guarantees in their national procedures for the listing of individuals and entities with a view to combating terrorism;

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[460] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[461] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[462] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[463] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[464] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[465] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2375, No. 24841.

13. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including by raising awareness, inter alia, through regular dialogue, about the need to respect human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism and support the exchange of best practices to promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in all aspects of counter-terrorism, including, as appropriate, those identified by the Special Rapporteur in his report submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 15/15;[466]

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing dialogue established in the context of the fight against terrorism between the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee and the relevant bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee to strengthen the links, cooperation and dialogue with relevant human rights bodies, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, other relevant special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and relevant treaty bodies, giving due regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in their ongoing work relating to counter-terrorism;

15. *Calls upon* States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, inter alia, reaffirms respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism;

16. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its efforts to ensure that the United Nations can better coordinate and enhance its support to Member States in their efforts to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, while countering terrorism, and to encourage the Working Groups of the Task Force to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work;

17. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular those participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which provide technical assistance, upon request, consistent with their mandates, related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to ensure respect for international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law, as an element of technical assistance, including in the adoption and implementation of legislative and other measures by States;

18. *Urges* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national legislation;

19. *Calls upon* international, regional and subregional organizations to strengthen information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in promoting the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism[467] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,[468] submitted pursuant to resolution 65/221;

21. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to make recommendations, in the context of his mandate, with regard to preventing, combating and redressing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of countering terrorism and to continue to report and engage in interactive dialogues on an annual basis with the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in accordance with their programmes of work;

22. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteur and providing the information requested, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to his requests to visit their countries, as well as to cooperate with other relevant procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council regarding the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

23. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement the mandate given to her in General Assembly resolution 60/158 of

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[466] A/HRC/16/51.

[467] A/66/204.

[468] See A/66/310.

16 December 2005, and requests her to continue her efforts in this regard;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

25. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/172

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[469]

66/172. Protection of migrants

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution 65/212 of 21 December 2010, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 18/21 of 30 September 2011,[470]

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[471] which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin,

Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[472] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[472] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[473] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[474] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[475] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[476] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[477] the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations[478] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[479]

Recalling also the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of all major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[480] which recognizes that migrant workers are among the most affected and vulnerable in the context of financial and economic crises,

Recalling further Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006[481] and 2009/1 of 3 April 2009,[482]

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers — Human Mobility and Development*,[483]

Taking note of advisory opinion OC-16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law and advisory opinion OC-18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

Taking note also of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*[484] and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment,[485] and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

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[469] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay.

[470] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53.1* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[471] Resolution 217 A (III).

[472] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[473] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[474] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[475] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[476] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

[477] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[478] Ibid., vol. 596, No. 8638.

[479] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[480] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[481] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[482] Ibid., *2009, Supplement No. 5* (E/2009/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[483] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.III.B.1.

[484] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 4* (A/59/4), chap. V, sect. A.23; see also *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals (Mexico* v. *United States of America), Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2004*, p. 12.

[485] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4* (A/64/4), chap. V, sect. B.12; see also *Request for Interpretation of the Judgment of 31 March 2004 in the Case concerning* Avena and Other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. United States of America) *(Mexico* v. *United States of America), Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2009*, p. 3.

Underlining the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration movements,

Recalling the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006 for the purpose of discussing the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, which, inter alia, recognized the relationship between international migration, development and human rights,

Noting that the fifth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2011, drew together the results and conclusions of fourteen thematic meetings that took place worldwide from January to October 2011 on the central theme "Taking action on migration and development — coherence, capacity and cooperation" as a contribution to promoting international cooperation among States and between States and other actors in order to strengthen the capacity of States to address migration and development opportunities and challenges more effectively, and taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of Mauritius to assume the presidency of the Global Forum for 2012,

Recognizing the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies and their communities of origin, as well as the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits and responding to the challenges which migration poses to countries of origin, transit and destination, especially in the light of the impact of the financial and economic crisis, and committing to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with applicable protections and to strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation,

Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of new security concerns,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,

Affirming that crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

Bearing in mind that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

Stressing the importance of regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

Stressing also the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal rather than an administrative offence where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt servitude and abandonment,

Recognizing the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

Concerned about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants,

Stressing that penalties and the treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their infraction,

Recognizing the importance of having a comprehensive and balanced approach to international migration, and bearing in mind that migration enriches the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of States and the historical and cultural ties that exist among some regions,

Recognizing also the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law,

Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration, so as to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing dangerous means to cross international borders,

1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants,

regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants, particularly migrant workers and their families;

3. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[471] and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights,[472] and in this regard:

(*a*) Strongly condemns the manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit xenophobic and racist acts;

(*b*) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(*c*) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, including in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

(*d*) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[479] as a matter of priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

(*e*) Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions;[486]

4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their immigration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party, and therefore:

(*a*) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and the inherent dignity of migrants and to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, where necessary, to review detention periods in order to avoid excessive detention of irregular migrants, and to adopt, where applicable, alternative measures to detention;

(*b*) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

(*c*) Notes with appreciation the measures adopted by some States to reduce detention periods in cases of undocumented migration in the application of domestic regulations and laws regarding irregular migration;

(*d*) Also notes with appreciation the successful implementation by some States of alternative measures to detention in cases of undocumented migration as a practice that deserves consideration by all States;

(*e*) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, to train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with the law, and to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, any act of violation of the human rights of migrants, inter alia, arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from their country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including their transit through national borders;

(*f*) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

(*g*) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[478] in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their immigration status, to communicate with a consular official of the sending State in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

(*h*) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

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[486] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/66/48).

(*i*) Encourages all States to remove unlawful obstacles, where they exist, that may prevent the safe, transparent, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances, earnings, assets and pensions of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation and agreements, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede such transfers;

(*j*) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

(*a*) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

(*b*) Also expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

(*c*) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

(*d*) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the measures necessary to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;

(*e*) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

(*f*) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation, at all levels of government, that deny migrant children access to education;

(*g*) Encourages States, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the successful integration of migrant children into the education system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

(*h*) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, and take into account, in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child and family reunification;

(*i*) Urges States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[487] and supplementing protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air[488] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[489] to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration,[490] and invites States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study when designing and implementing their migration policies;

7. *Encourages* States to protect victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping, trafficking and, in some instances, smuggling, through, where applicable, the implementation of programmes and policies that guarantee protection and access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance;

8. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact domestic legislation and to take further effective measures to combat international trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude or exploitation, which may also include debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to combat such trafficking and smuggling;

9. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, and therefore:

(*a*) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

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[487] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[488] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[489] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[490] A/HRC/15/29.

(*b*) Encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

(*c*) Also encourages States to further strengthen their cooperation in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(*d*) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

(*e*) Requests Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants, to ensure that the perspective of the human rights of migrants is included among the priority issues in the ongoing discussions on international migration and development within the United Nations system, and in this regard underlines the importance of adequately taking into account the human rights perspective as one of the priorities of the informal thematic debate on international migration and development, held in 2011, as well as in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will take place during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 2013, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 63/225 of 19 December 2008;

(*f*) Encourages States, relevant international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue and to enhance their dialogue with a view to strengthening public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

(*g*) Invites the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to address the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", within existing resources;

(*h*) Invites the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to submit his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, on the implementation of resolution 65/212 and on how the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families has influenced policy and practice, where applicable, to strengthen the protection of migrants;[491]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue his efforts to gather information on the subject of the above-mentioned report, while encouraging Member States to provide information relating to the application of the Convention and recognizing States that have provided the requested information.

RESOLUTION 66/173

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.2, para. 108)[492]

66/173. Follow-up to the International Year of Human Rights Learning

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations include promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and that human rights learning can contribute to the understanding of their connectedness to people's daily lives,

Recalling its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which it decided that the Human Rights Council should, inter alia, promote human rights education and learning as well as advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in this regard,[493]

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[491] A/66/253.

[492] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Recalling further its resolutions 62/171 of 18 December 2007, 63/173 of 18 December 2008 and 64/82 of 10 December 2009 on the International Year of Human Rights Learning and its follow-up,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 15/11 of 30 September 2010,[494] in which the Council decided on the plan of action for the second phase (2010–2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and stressing the complementarity of human rights learning and human rights education,

Acknowledging that civil society, academia, the private sector, the media and, where appropriate, parliamentarians can play an important role at the national, regional and international levels in the development and facilitation of ways and means to promote and implement learning about human rights as a way of life at the community level,

Convinced that integrating human rights learning into all relevant development policies and programmes contributes to enabling people to participate as equals in the decisions that determine their lives,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[495]

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* that every woman, man, youth and child can realize his or her full human potential by, inter alia, learning about the comprehensive framework of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the ability to act on that knowledge in order to ensure the effective realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

2. *Encourages* Member States to expand on efforts made beyond the International Year of Human Rights Learning and to consider devoting the financial and human resources necessary to further design and implement international, regional, national and local long-term human rights learning programmes of action aimed at broad-based and sustained human rights learning at all levels, in coordination with civil society, the media, the private sector, academia, parliamentarians and regional organizations, including the appropriate specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and, where possible, to designate human rights cities;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to support, cooperate and collaborate closely with civil society, the private sector, academia, regional organizations, the media and other relevant stakeholders, as well as with organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, and relevant networks and bodies such as the Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Office for Partnerships in efforts to develop, in particular, the design of strategies and international, regional, national and local programmes of action aimed at broad-based and sustained human rights learning at all levels;

4. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,[496] and stresses the complementarity of human rights learning and the Declaration;

5. *Encourages* civil society organizations worldwide, in particular those working at the community level, to integrate human rights learning into dialogue and consciousness-raising programmes with groups working on education, development, poverty eradication, participation, children, indigenous peoples, gender equality, persons with disabilities, elder persons and migrants, as well as on other relevant political, civil, economic, social and cultural issues of concern;

6. *Encourages* relevant actors in civil society, including sociologists, anthropologists, members of academia and of the media and community leaders, to join in further developing the concept of human rights learning as a way to promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

7. *Invites* relevant treaty bodies to take human rights learning into account in their interaction with States parties;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/174

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.3, para. 33),[497] by a recorded vote of 123 to 16, with 51 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil,

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[493] See resolution 60/1, para. 131.

[494] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[495] A/66/225.

[496] Resolution 66/137, annex.

[497] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

Against: Algeria, Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Oman, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia

66/174. Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that States Members of the United Nations have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations that they have undertaken under the various international instruments,

Mindful that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[498] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[498] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[499] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[500]

Acknowledging the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the universal periodic review process, expressing serious concern at the refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to articulate its position as to which recommendations included in the outcome report of its universal periodic review,[501] adopted in March 2010, enjoy its support, and regretting the continuing lack of action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to implement the recommendations contained in the report,

Recalling the concluding observations of the treaty-monitoring bodies under the four treaties to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration established between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization in order to improve the health situation in the country, and the collaboration established with the United Nations Children's Fund in order to improve the quality of education for children,

Noting the decision on the resumption, on a modest scale, of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and encouraging the engagement of the Government with the international community to ensure that the programmes benefit the persons in need of assistance,

Noting also the cooperation established between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the purpose of conducting a rapid food security assessment in the country, as well as the letter of understanding signed with the World Food Programme, and emphasizing the importance of providing further access to all United Nations entities,

Recalling its resolutions 60/173 of 16 December 2005, 61/174 of 19 December 2006, 62/167 of 18 December 2007, 63/190 of 18 December 2008, 64/175 of 18 December 2009 and 65/225 of 21 December 2010, Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/10 of 16 April 2003,[502] 2004/13 of 15 April 2004[503] and 2005/11 of 14 April 2005,[504] Human Rights Council decision 1/102 of 30 June 2006[505] and Council resolutions 7/15 of 27 March 2008,[506] 10/16 of 26 March

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[498] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[499] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[500] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[501] A/HRC/13/13.

[502] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[503] Ibid., *2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[504] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[505] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/61/53), chap. II, sect. B.

[506] Ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II.

2009,[507] 13/14 of 25 March 2010[508] and 16/8 of 24 March 2011,[509] and mindful of the need for the international community to strengthen its coordinated efforts aimed at achieving the implementation of those resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,[510] regretting that he still has not been allowed to visit the country and that he received no cooperation from the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and taking note also of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted in accordance with resolution 65/225,[511]

Noting the importance of the inter-Korean dialogue, which could contribute to the improvement of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the country,

Noting with regret that the reunion of separated families across the border, which is an urgent humanitarian concern of the entire Korean people, has been halted, and hoping that it will be resumed as early as possible and that necessary arrangements for further reunions on a larger scale and a regular basis will be made between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea,

1. *Expresses its very serious concern* at:

(*a*) The persistence of continuing reports of systematic, widespread and grave violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including:

(i) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including inhuman conditions of detention, public executions, extrajudicial and arbitrary detention; the absence of due process and the rule of law, including fair trial guarantees and an independent judiciary; the imposition of the death penalty for political and religious reasons; collective punishments; and the existence of a large number of prison camps and the extensive use of forced labour;

(ii) Limitations imposed on every person who wishes to move freely within the country and travel abroad, including the punishment of those who leave or try to leave the country without permission, or their families, as well as punishment of persons who are returned;

(iii) The situation of refugees and asylum seekers expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and sanctions imposed on citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who have been repatriated from abroad, leading to punishments of internment, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or the death penalty, and in this regard strongly urges all States to respect the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, to treat those who seek refuge humanely and to ensure unhindered access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office, with a view to protecting the human rights of those who seek refuge, and once again urges States parties to comply with their obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[512] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[513] in relation to refugees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are covered by those instruments;

(iv) All-pervasive and severe restrictions on the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, the right to privacy and equal access to information, by such means as the persecution of individuals exercising their freedom of opinion and expression, and their families, and the right of everyone to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, of his or her country;

(v) The violations of economic, social and cultural rights, which have led to severe malnutrition, widespread health problems and other hardship for the population in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular for persons belonging to particularly exposed groups, inter alia, women, children and the elderly;

(vi) Continuing violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, in particular the trafficking of women for the purpose of prostitution or forced marriage and the subjection of women to human smuggling, forced abortions, gender-based discrimination, including in the economic sphere, and gender-based violence and continuing impunity for such violence;

(vii) Continuing reports of violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children, in particular the continued lack of access to basic economic, social and cultural rights for many children, and in this regard notes the particularly vulnerable situation faced by, inter alia, returned or repatriated children, street children, children with disabilities, children whose parents are detained, children living in detention or in institutions and children in conflict with the law;

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[507] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/64/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[508] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[509] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[510] See A/66/322.

[511] A/66/343.

[512] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[513] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

(viii) Continuing reports of violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, especially on the use of collective camps and of coercive measures that target the rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;

(ix) Violations of workers' rights, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, the right to strike as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[498] and the prohibition of the economic exploitation of children and of any harmful or hazardous work of children as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[499]

(*b*) The continued refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or to extend cooperation to him, despite the renewal of the mandate by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 7/15,[506] 10/16,[507] 13/14[508] and 16/8;[509]

(*c*) The continued refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to articulate which recommendations enjoyed its support following its universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council or to express its commitment to their implementation, and regrets the lack of actions taken to date to implement the recommendations contained in the final outcome;[501]

2. *Reiterates its very serious concern* at unresolved questions of international concern relating to abductions in the form of enforced disappearance, which violates the human rights of nationals of other sovereign countries, and in this regard strongly calls upon the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea urgently to resolve these questions, including through existing channels, in a transparent manner, including by ensuring the immediate return of abductees;

3. *Expresses its very deep concern* at the precarious humanitarian situation, including a serious deterioration in the availability of and access to food, in the country, partly as a result of frequent natural disasters, compounded by structural weaknesses in agricultural production resulting in significant shortages of food, and the increasing State restrictions on the cultivation and trade in foodstuffs, as well as the prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, pregnant women, infants and the elderly, which, despite some progress, continues to affect the physical and mental development of a significant proportion of children, and urges the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in this regard, to take preventive and remedial action, cooperating where necessary with international donor agencies and in accordance with international standards for monitoring humanitarian assistance;

4. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far and for his continued efforts in the conduct of his mandate despite the limited access to information;

5. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in this regard:

(*a*) To immediately put an end to the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights mentioned above, inter alia, by implementing fully the measures set out in the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, and the recommendations addressed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the Human Rights Council in the context of the universal periodic review and the United Nations special procedures and treaty bodies;

(*b*) To protect its inhabitants, address the issue of impunity and ensure that those responsible for violations of human rights are brought to justice before an independent judiciary;

(*c*) To tackle the root causes leading to refugee outflows and prosecute those who exploit refugees by human smuggling, trafficking and extortion, while not criminalizing the victims, and to ensure that citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are able to return in safety and dignity, are humanely treated and are not subjected to any kind of punishment;

(*d*) To extend its full cooperation to the Special Rapporteur, including by granting him full, free and unimpeded access to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and to other United Nations human rights mechanisms so that a full needs assessment of the human rights situation may be made;

(*e*) To engage in technical cooperation activities in the field of human rights with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office, as pursued by the High Commissioner in recent years, with a view to improving the situation of human rights in the country, and strive to implement the recommendations made in the universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council;

(*f*) To engage in cooperation with the International Labour Organization with a view to significantly improving workers' rights;

(*g*) To continue and reinforce its cooperation with United Nations humanitarian agencies;

(*h*) To ensure full, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian aid and take measures to allow humanitarian agencies to secure its impartial delivery to all parts of the country on the basis of need in accordance with humanitarian principles, as it pledged to do, and to ensure access to adequate food and implement more effective food security policies, including through sustainable agriculture, sound food production distribution measures and by allocating more funds to the food sector, and to ensure adequate monitoring of humanitarian assistance;

(*i*) To improve cooperation with the United Nations country team and development agencies so that they can directly contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population, including accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with international monitoring and evaluation procedures;

(*j*) To consider ratifying and acceding to remaining international human rights treaties, which would enable a dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies;

6. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at its sixty-seventh session, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report his findings and recommendations.

RESOLUTION 66/175

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.3, para. 33),[514] by a recorded vote of 89 to 30, with 64 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu

Against: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zambia

66/175. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[515] the International Covenants on Human Rights[516] and other international human rights instruments,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most recent of which is resolution 65/226 of 21 December 2010,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 65/226,[517] which highlights further negative developments in the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran[518] submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/9 of 24 March 2011,[519] which notes concern over reports of targeted violence and discrimination against minority groups and alarm at a documented dramatic increase in executions, including secret group executions carried out inside prisons;

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[514] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[515] Resolution 217 A (III).

[516] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[517] A/66/361.

[518] See A/66/374.

[519] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

2. *Expresses deep concern* at serious ongoing and recurring human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran relating to, inter alia:

(*a*) Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including flogging and amputations;

(*b*) The continuing high incidence of and dramatic increase in the carrying out of the death penalty in the absence of internationally recognized safeguards, including public executions, notwithstanding a circular from the former head of the judiciary prohibiting public executions, and secret group executions, as well as reports of executions undertaken without the notification of the prisoner's family members or legal counsel;

(*c*) The continuing imposition and carrying out of the death penalty against minors and persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18, in violation of the obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[520] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[516]

(*d*) The imposition of the death penalty for crimes that lack a precise and explicit definition, including *moharabeh* (enmity against God), or for crimes that do not qualify as the most serious crimes, in violation of international law;

(*e*) The practice of suspension strangulation as a method of execution, and the fact that persons in prison continue to face sentences of execution by stoning, notwithstanding a circular from the former head of the judiciary prohibiting stoning;

(*f*) The continuing and systematic targeting of human rights defenders, including, inter alia, lawyers, journalists and other media representatives, Internet providers and bloggers, who endure intimidation, interrogation, arrest and arbitrary detention as a result of their activities, noting, in particular, the continued harassment and detention of staff members of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre;

(*g*) Pervasive gender inequality and violence against women, including sexual violence, a continued crackdown on women's human rights defenders, arrests, violent repression and sentencing of women exercising their right to peaceful assembly and increased discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice;

(*h*) Continuing discrimination and other human rights violations, at times amounting to persecution, against persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, including, inter alia, Arabs, Azeris, Baluchis and Kurds and their defenders, noting, in particular, reports of the violent suppression and detention of ethnic Arabs and Azeris, the violent repression of environmental protests in Azeri territory and the high rate of executions of persons belonging to minority groups;

(*i*) Increased persecution and human rights violations against persons belonging to recognized religious minorities, including, inter alia, Christians, Jews, Sufis, Sunni Muslims and Zoroastrians and their defenders, noting, in particular, the widespread arrest and detention of Sufis and evangelical Christians and reports of harsh sentences against Christian pastors;

(*j*) Increased persecution and human rights violations against persons belonging to unrecognized religious minorities, particularly members of the Baha'i faith, including escalating attacks on Baha'is and their defenders, including in State-sponsored media, a significant increase in the number of Baha'is arrested and detained, including the targeted attack on the Baha'i educational institution, the reinstatement of twenty-year sentences against seven Baha'i leaders following deeply flawed legal proceedings, and renewed measures to deny Baha'is employment in the public and private sectors;

(*k*) The continuing and sustained house arrest of leading opposition figures from the 2009 presidential elections;

(*l*) Ongoing, systemic and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including those imposed on the media, political opponents, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, Internet providers, Internet users, bloggers, clerics, artists, filmmakers, academics, students, labour leaders and trade unions, from all sectors of Iranian society;

(*m*) The continuing use of State security forces and Government-directed militias to forcibly disperse Iranian citizens engaged in the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association;

(*n*) Severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, including arbitrary arrest, indefinite detention and lengthy jail sentences, for those exercising this right, and the arbitrary demolition of places of worship and burial;

(*o*) Persistent failure to uphold due process of law, and violations of the rights of detainees, including defendants held without charge or held incommunicado, the systematic and arbitrary use of prolonged solitary confinement, the lack of access of detainees to legal representation of their choice, the refusal to consider granting bail to detainees, and the poor conditions of prisons, including the serious overcrowding and poor level of sanitation, as well as persistent reports of detainees being subjected to torture, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, harsh interrogation techniques and the use of pressure exerted upon their relatives and dependants, including through arrest, to obtain false confessions that are then used at trials;

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[520] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

(*p*) Continuing arbitrary or unlawful interference by State authorities with the privacy of individuals, in particular in relation to private homes, and with their correspondence, including voicemail and e-mail communications, in violation of international law;

3. *Expresses particular concern* at the failure of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to conduct any comprehensive investigation or to launch an accountability process for alleged violations in the period following the presidential elections of 12 June 2009, and reiterates its call upon the Government to launch a process of credible, independent and impartial investigations into reports of human rights violations and to end impunity for such violations;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained for simply exercising their right to peaceful assembly and participating in peaceful protests about political, economic, environmental or other issues, including the conduct and results of the 2009 presidential elections;

5. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure free, fair, transparent and inclusive parliamentary elections in 2012 that reflect the will of the people and are consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[515] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all other relevant human rights instruments to which the State is a party, and calls upon the Government to allow independent observation, including by civil society and candidates, of the electoral process and to allow independent local and international journalists to freely observe and report on the elections as well as subsequent political developments;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to address the substantive concerns highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General and the specific calls to action found in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to respect fully its human rights obligations, in law and in practice, in particular:

(*a*) To eliminate, in law and in practice, amputations, flogging and other forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(*b*) To abolish, in law and in practice, public executions and other executions carried out in the absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards;

(*c*) To abolish, pursuant to its obligations under article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, executions of minors and persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18;

(*d*) To abolish the use of stoning and suspension strangulation as methods of execution;

(*e*) To eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls;

(*f*) To eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, recognized or otherwise, to refrain from monitoring individuals on the basis of their religious beliefs, and to ensure that the access of minorities to education and employment is on a par with that of all Iranians;

(*g*) To eliminate discrimination against, and exclusion of, women and members of certain groups, including members of the Baha'i faith, regarding access to higher education, and to eliminate the criminalization of efforts to provide higher education to Baha'i youth denied access to Iranian universities;

(*h*) To implement, inter alia, the 1996 report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance,[521] in which he recommended ways in which the Islamic Republic of Iran could emancipate the Baha'i community, and to accord the seven Baha'i leaders held since 2008 the due process of law and rights that they are constitutionally guaranteed, including the right to adequate legal representation without intimidation and the right to timely, fair and open legal proceedings;

(*i*) To end the harassment, intimidation and persecution of political opponents, human rights defenders, labour leaders, students, academics, journalists, other media representatives, bloggers, clerics, artists and lawyers, including by releasing persons imprisoned arbitrarily or on the basis of their political views;

(*j*) To end restrictions placed on Internet users and Internet providers that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and privacy;

(*k*) To end restrictions on the press and media representatives, including the selective jamming of satellite broadcasts;

(*l*) To end the use of State security forces and Government-directed militias to forcibly disperse Iranian citizens engaged in the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;

(*m*) To uphold, in law and in practice, procedural guarantees to ensure due process of law;

7. *Also calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen its national human rights institutions in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ("the Paris Principles");[522]

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[521] E/CN.4/1996/95/Add.2.

[522] Resolution 48/134, annex.

8. *Further calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider ratifying or acceding to the international human rights treaties to which it is not already a party, to effectively implement those human rights treaties to which it is already a party, to withdraw any reservations it may have made upon signature or ratification of other international human rights instruments where such reservations are overly general, imprecise or could be considered incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty, and to consider acting upon the concluding observations concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by the bodies of the international human rights treaties to which it is a party;

9. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to positively avail itself of the opportunity to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and other international human rights mechanisms, including by allowing the Special Rapporteur unfettered access to the country to carry out his mandate;

11. *Encourages* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue exploring cooperation on human rights and justice reform with the United Nations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

12. *Expresses deep concern* that, despite the Islamic Republic of Iran's standing invitation to all thematic special procedures mandate holders, it has not fulfilled any requests from those special mechanisms to visit the country in six years and has left unanswered the vast majority of the numerous and repeated communications from those special mechanisms, and strongly urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully cooperate with the special mechanisms, including facilitating their visits to its territory, so that credible and independent investigations of all allegations of human rights violations can be conducted;

13. *Strongly encourages* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to seriously consider all of the recommendations put forward at its universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council,[523] with the full and genuine participation of civil society and other stakeholders;

14. *Strongly encourages* the thematic special procedures mandate holders to pay particular attention to, with a view to investigating and reporting on, the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Independent Expert on minority issues, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation, and to submit an interim report to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session;

16. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RESOLUTION 66/176

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.3, para. 33),[524] by a recorded vote of 133 to 11, with 43 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay,

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[523] See A/HRC/14/12.

[524] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu.

Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu

Against: Belarus, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, China, Djibouti, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

66/176. Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[525] and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[526]

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1 of 29 April 2011,[527] and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 of 23 August 2011,[527] which established an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic, and regretting the lack of cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the commission of inquiry,

Welcoming all efforts made by the League of Arab States to address all aspects of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the steps undertaken by the League of Arab States to ensure the implementation of its Plan of Action, including those aimed at ending all human rights violations and all acts of violence,

Expressing concern about the continuing lack of commitment by the Syrian authorities to fully and immediately implement the Plan of Action of the League of Arab States of 2 November 2011,

Welcoming the decisions of the League of Arab States of 12 and 16 November 2011 on the developments in respect of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing human rights violations and use of violence by the Syrian authorities against their population,

Reaffirming that all States Members of the United Nations should refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continued grave and systematic human rights violations by the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary executions, excessive use of force and the persecution and killing of protesters and human rights defenders, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including children;

2. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, to protect their population and to fully comply with their obligations under international human rights law, and calls for an immediate end to all violence in the Syrian Arab Republic;

3. *Also calls upon* the Syrian authorities to implement the Plan of Action of the League of Arab States in its entirety without further delay;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in accordance with his functions, to provide support, if requested, to the League of Arab States observer mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the decisions of the League of Arab States of 12 and 16 November 2011;

5. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to comply with Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1[527] and S-17/1,[527] including by cooperating fully and effectively with the independent international commission of inquiry.

RESOLUTION 66/177

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[528]

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[525] Resolution 217 A (III).

[526] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[527] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

[528] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Economic and Social Council.

66/177. Strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the links between various types of transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[529] and their impact on development as well as, in some cases, on security,

Concerned also that transnational organized criminal groups expand their activities to various sectors of economies with a view, inter alia, to legalizing proceeds of various types of crime and utilizing them for criminal purposes,

Concerned further about cases of transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, that involve vast quantities of assets, which may exceed the resources of some States, and that may weaken governance systems, national economies and the rule of law, and bearing in mind in this regard, inter alia, paragraph 50 of the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[530]

Conscious of the need to enhance international cooperation to effectively prevent, detect and deter international transfers of illicitly acquired assets resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption[531] and other relevant instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[532] as well as relevant resolutions of other United Nations bodies, contribute to a global framework for preventing and countering the illicit flow of funds, including through money-laundering,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 provide a fundamental global framework of international standards for States parties for preventing and combating money-laundering,

Recalling its resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and welcoming, in particular, the use of its technical cooperation capacity for preventing and countering the illicit flow of funds,

Recalling also paragraph 23 of the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[533] in which Member States were encouraged to consider developing strategies or policies to combat illicit financial flows,

Noting with interest the work undertaken in countering money-laundering within the framework of relevant specialized regional and international bodies, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Financial Action Task Force, regional bodies similar to the Task Force, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization,

Noting with interest also the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism and the evaluation of the Global Programme by the Independent Evaluation Unit,

Convinced that technical assistance can play an important role in enhancing the ability of States, including by strengthening capacity- and institution-building, to prevent, detect and deter illicit financial flows originating from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Aware that the availability of information on illicit financial flows resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, is very limited, and aware of the need to improve the quality, scope and completeness of such information,

Noting the many methods used by transnational organized criminal groups for laundering proceeds of crime, including through illicit trafficking in precious metals and the associated raw materials, and welcoming further research by Member States and other entities to study such methods,

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[529] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[530] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[531] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[532] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[533] Resolution 65/230, annex.

Taking note of the analytical work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which provides a preliminary overview of different forms of emerging criminal activity and their negative impact on the sustainable development of societies,

Noting with interest the efforts made within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative[534] regarding work on illicit financial flows as a key issue in the drug economy,

Recognizing that the strengthening of national and international measures against the laundering of proceeds of crime derived from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, will contribute to weakening the economic power of criminal organizations,

Recognizing also the pertinence of the review of implementation mechanisms for the United Nations Convention against Corruption to the prevention of illicit financial flows as well as to a possible mechanism or mechanisms for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Aware of the need to enhance international cooperation in the seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime derived from or obtained directly or indirectly through the commission of crimes, including by means of the smuggling of cash,

1. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[532] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[529] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption[531] to apply fully the provisions of those Conventions, in particular measures to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and invites Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those Conventions;

2. *Encourages* Member States to fully implement applicable standards, as appropriate, in order to adopt the comprehensive range of measures required to prevent and combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism;

3. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with national laws, to require financial institutions and other businesses or members of any profession subject to obligations with regard to countering money-laundering to report promptly to the competent authorities any funds transaction in which they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the assets are proceeds of crime and money-laundering resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

4. *Also urges* Member States to consider taking all measures necessary to ensure that they do not provide a safe haven for wanted fugitives who have accumulated or are harbouring in their possession proceeds of crime derived from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, or who finance organized crime or criminal organizations, in particular by extraditing or prosecuting such fugitives, and urges Member States, in accordance with national laws and international law obligations, to fully cooperate with each other in this regard;

5. *Encourages* Member States to afford other countries the greatest possible measure of legal assistance and information exchange in connection with relevant investigations, inquiries and proceedings related to tracing illicit financial flows and seeking to identify illicitly acquired assets resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate in confiscation-related investigations and proceedings, including through the recognition and enforcement of foreign temporary judicial orders and confiscation judgements, management of assets and implementation of asset-sharing measures, in accordance with their laws and applicable treaties;

7. *Urges* Member States to establish or, where applicable, strengthen national institutions specializing in financial intelligence by allowing them to receive, obtain, analyse and disseminate financial information relevant to preventing, detecting and deterring illicit financial flows resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to ensure that such institutions have the ability to facilitate the exchange of such information with relevant international partners, in accordance with relevant domestic procedures;

8. *Also urges* Member States to consider related global and regional initiatives to facilitate the tracing of proceeds of crime resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider implementing measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems and consistent with their national legal frameworks, for the confiscation of assets absent a

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[534] See S/2003/641, annex.

criminal conviction, in cases where it can be established that the subject assets are the proceeds of crime and a criminal conviction is not possible;

10. *Considers* that the review by the International Narcotics Control Board of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 is also relevant to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the area of money-laundering;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation and consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to strengthen, simplify and make more efficient the collection and reporting of accurate, reliable and comparable data on transnational organized crime;

12. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States, in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on illicit financial flows resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as to prevent, detect and deter illicit financial flows and money-laundering resulting from such criminal activities;

13. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with related United Nations instruments and internationally accepted standards, including, where applicable, recommendations of relevant intergovernmental bodies, inter alia, the Financial Action Task Force, and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations against money-laundering;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, in consultation with Member States, its research on transnational organized crime, including illicit financial flows;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, inter alia, in line with the recommendations made by the Independent Evaluation Unit in its review of the Global Programme;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its cooperation with other appropriate international and regional organizations engaged in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from transnational organized crime, including, as appropriate, drug trafficking and related offences provided for in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, for the purposes of providing technical assistance in this regard;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session on measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/178

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[535]

66/178. Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions related to technical assistance in countering terrorism,

Stressing again the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

Recalling its resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010, in which it, inter alia, reiterated its request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism,

Recalling also its resolution 64/297 of 8 September 2010, in which it reaffirmed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy[536] and underlined the importance of greater cooperation among United Nations entities and of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, as well as the need to continue to promote transparency and to avoid duplication,

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[535] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Economic and Social Council.

[536] Resolution 60/288.

Recalling further the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[537]

Reiterating all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need for States to continue to implement it,

Reaffirming its resolution 65/221 of 21 December 2010,

Reaffirming also its resolution 65/232, in which it, inter alia, expressed deep concern about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism and emphasized the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to that evolving challenge,

Reiterating that it is the primary responsibility of Member States to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and recognizing the need to enhance the important role that the United Nations plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, in facilitating coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity-building,

Taking note of the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation[538] and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft,[539] both adopted on 10 September 2010 at the International Conference on Air Law, held in Beijing from 30 August to 10 September 2010,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in close coordination with the relevant entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States for the ratification and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

2. *Urges* Member States to continue to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in order to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and, when appropriate, by entering into bilateral and multilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant personnel in executing international cooperation, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to provide technical assistance to Member States to that end, including by continuing and enhancing its assistance related to international legal cooperation pertaining to terrorism;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of fair and effective criminal justice systems, in accordance with applicable international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whenever appropriate, to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge in the area of counter-terrorism and pertinent thematic areas of relevance to the mandate of the Office and to provide assistance to requesting Member States with regard to criminal justice responses to terrorism, including, where appropriate, nuclear terrorism, the financing of terrorism and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, as well as assistance to and support for victims of terrorism;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to develop its technical assistance programmes, in consultation with Member States, to assist them in ratifying and implementing the international legal instruments related to terrorism;

6. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States to ratify and implement the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, including through targeted programmes and the training of relevant criminal justice officials, upon request, the development of and participation in relevant initiatives and the elaboration of technical tools and publications;

7. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to strengthen its cooperation with international organizations and relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, in the delivery of technical assistance, whenever appropriate;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to give high priority to the implementation of an integrated approach through the promotion of its regional and thematic programmes;

9. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate and to address, as appropriate, including through the effective exchange of information and sharing of experiences, connections between terrorism and related criminal activities in order to enhance criminal justice responses to terrorism, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

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[537] Resolution 65/230, annex.

[538] Adopted by a vote of 55 in favour and 14 not in favour.

[539] Adopted by a vote of 57 in favour and 13 not in favour.

within its relevant mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, upon request;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional voluntary financial contributions, as well as providing in kind support, especially in view of the need for enhanced and effective delivery of technical assistance to assist Member States with the implementation of relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;[536]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities, within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/179

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[540]

66/179. Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[541] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which it endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, as adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider at its twentieth session options to improve the efficiency of the process involved in the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[542]

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World[543] and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal

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[540] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Economic and Social Council.

[541] Resolution 46/152, annex.

[542] E/CN.15/2011/15.

[543] Resolution 65/230, annex.

Justice at its meeting, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006;[544]

4. *Invites* Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session on the suggestions made by Member States;

5. *Recommends*, in order to strengthen the outcome of future crime congresses, that the number of their agenda items and workshops be limited, and encourages the holding of side events that are focused on and complement the agenda items and workshops;

6. *Requests* the Commission to approve at its twenty-first session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress.

RESOLUTION 66/180

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[545]

66/180. Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/17 of 3 December 2003, 61/52 of 4 December 2006 and 64/78 of 7 December 2009 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2003/29 of 22 July 2003 entitled "Prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property", 2004/34 of 21 July 2004 and 2008/23 of 24 July 2008 entitled "Protection against trafficking in cultural property" and 2010/19 of 22 July 2010 entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking", and the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[546]

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000,[547] as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003,[548]

Recalling further the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970,[549] the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, adopted by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law on 24 June 1995,[550] and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, adopted at The Hague on 14 May 1954,[551] and the two Protocols thereto, adopted on 14 May 1954[551] and 26 March 1999,[552] and reaffirming the necessity for those States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to and, as States parties, implementing those international instruments,

Reiterating the significance of cultural property as part of the common heritage of humankind and as unique and important testimony of the culture and identity of peoples and the necessity of protecting it, and reaffirming in that regard the need to strengthen international cooperation in preventing, prosecuting and punishing all aspects of trafficking in cultural property,

Concerned that demand for stolen, looted and illicitly exported or imported cultural property is growing and fuels further looting, destruction, removal and theft of and trafficking in such unique property, and recognizing that urgent and commensurate legislative and administrative measures are required to discourage demand for illicitly acquired cultural property in the market,

Alarmed at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and observing that cultural property is increasingly being sold through markets, including in auctions, in particular over the Internet, and that such property is being unlawfully excavated and illicitly exported or imported, with the facilitation of modern and sophisticated technologies,

Inviting Member States to protect cultural property and prevent trafficking in such property by introducing appropriate legislation, including, in particular, procedures for its seizure, recovery and return, as well as by promoting education, launching awareness-raising campaigns, locating and inventorying such property, adopting adequate security measures, developing the capacities and human resources of monitoring institutions, such as the police and customs services, and of the tourism sector, involving the media and disseminating information on the theft and pillaging of cultural property,

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[544] See E/CN.15/2007/6.

[545] The draft resolution recommended in the report was submitted by the Economic and Social Council.

[546] Resolution 65/230, annex.

[547] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[548] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[549] Ibid., vol. 823, No. 11806.

[550] Ibid., vol. 2421, No. 43718.

[551] Ibid., vol. 249, No. 3511.

[552] Ibid., vol. 2253, No. 3511.

Acknowledging the important contribution of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network in this field,

Recognizing the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/19, as well as resolution 5/7 of 22 October 2010 entitled "Combating transnational organized crime against cultural property", adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its fifth session, held in Vienna from 18 to 22 October 2010;[553]

2. *Urges* Member States that are parties to the aforementioned conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[547] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[548] to fully implement them, encourages those Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those conventions, and encourages Member States and relevant international organizations to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking, within the framework of relevant United Nations conventions and resolutions, for the purpose of providing the widest possible international cooperation to address such crimes, including for extradition, mutual legal assistance and the confiscation and return of stolen cultural property to its rightful owner;

3. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2010/19 to convene at least one additional meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property established within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and encourages Member States and other donors to support the convening of that expert group meeting and to submit to the Commission at its twenty-second session practical proposals for implementing, where appropriate, the recommendations made by the expert group at its meeting held in Vienna from 24 to 26 November 2009,[554] with due attention to aspects of criminalization, international cooperation and mutual legal assistance;

4. *Also welcomes* the request made by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its fifth session to its Working Group on International Cooperation and its Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance to examine the relevant recommendations and outcomes of the meetings of the expert group and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties in order to promote the practical application of the Convention, by considering the extent and adequacy of existing norms, as well as other normative developments, with due attention to aspects of criminalization and international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, in this regard;

5. *Urges* Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen cultural property, and requests the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue their efforts to effectively strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking, bearing in mind, in particular, paragraph 12 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/19;

6. *Urges* Member States to consider, among other effective measures within the framework of their national legislation, criminalizing activities related to all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences by using a broad definition that can be applied to all stolen, looted, unlawfully excavated and illicitly exported or imported cultural property, and invites them to make trafficking in cultural property, including stealing and looting at archaeological and other cultural sites, a serious crime, as defined in article 2 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with a view to fully utilizing that Convention for the purpose of extensive international cooperation in fighting all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences;

7. *Also urges* Member States to take all appropriate steps and effective measures to strengthen legislative and administrative measures aimed at countering trade in stolen, looted and illicitly exported or imported cultural property, including appropriate domestic measures to maximize the transparency of activities of traders in cultural property in the market, in particular through effective regulations and supervision of dealers in antiquities, intermediaries and similar institutions, in accordance with their national law and other applicable law;

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[553] See CTOC/COP/2010/17, chap. I, sect. A.

[554] See E/CN.15/2010/5.

8. *Invites* Member States to continue to submit, in writing, comments on the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property,[555] including views on its potential utility and on whether any improvements to it should be considered at the earliest possible date, in order to assist the Secretariat in preparing an analysis and a report to be presented to the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property at its next meeting, as well as to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in consultation with Member States and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other competent international organizations:

(*a*) To further explore the development of specific guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property;

(*b*) To explore possibilities for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data specifically addressing the relevant aspects of trafficking in cultural property;

(*c*) To continue to collect, analyse and disseminate information on crime trends through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems;

(*d*) To promote good practices, including in international cooperation;

(*e*) To assist Member States, upon request, in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking;

(*f*) To consider, where appropriate, addressing trafficking in cultural property in its regional, interregional and thematic programmes;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION 66/181

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[556]

66/181. Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 65/169 of 20 December 2010 and 65/190 and 65/232 of 21 December 2010,

Reaffirming also its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[557] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[558] and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, including those that recently entered into force,

Reaffirming further the commitments undertaken by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006,[559] and its successive reviews of 4 and 5 September 2008[560] and of 8 September 2010,[561]

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[555] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1, annex.

[556] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[557] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[558] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[559] Resolution 60/288.

Emphasizing that its resolution 65/187 of 21 December 2010 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and its resolution 65/228 of 21 December 2010 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women, by which it adopted the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, have considerable implications for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and its activities,

Recalling the adoption of its resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010 on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and encouraging in this regard efforts of Member States to conduct further study with a view to utilizing these practical measures,

Recalling also the adoption of its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010 on the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which it endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,

Taking into consideration all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2011/33, 2011/34, 2011/35 and 2011/36 of 28 July 2011 and all those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation, as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance,

Recalling its resolutions 58/17 of 3 December 2003, 61/52 of 4 December 2006 and 64/78 of 7 December 2009 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2003/29 of 22 July 2003 on the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property, 2004/34 of 21 July 2004 and 2008/23 of 24 July 2008 on protection against trafficking in cultural property, 2010/19 of 22 July 2010 on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking, and 2011/42 of 28 July 2011 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking,

Recalling also the adoption of its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010 entitled "United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons", reaffirming the need for the full implementation of the Global Plan of Action, expressing the view that it will, inter alia, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[562] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[563] and welcoming the launch of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop within the United Nations system an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard,

Expressing its grave concern at the negative effects of transnational organized crime, including smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, narcotic drugs and small arms and light weapons, on development, peace and security and human rights, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime,

Convinced of the importance of preventing youth crime, supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, protecting child victims and witnesses, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children of prisoners, and stressing that such responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of children and young people, as called for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[564] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[565] where applicable, and in other relevant United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, where appropriate,

Concerned by the serious challenges and threats posed by the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and concerned about its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and other criminal activities, including terrorism,

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[560] See resolution 62/272; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Plenary Meetings*, 117th to 120th meetings (A/62/PV.117-120), and corrigendum.

[561] See resolution 64/297; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 116th and 117th meetings (A/64/PV.116 and 117), and corrigendum.

[562] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[563] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[564] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[565] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

Deeply concerned about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to this evolving challenge,

Concerned about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their proceeds into the economy,

Recognizing that actions against transnational organized crime and terrorism are a common and shared responsibility, and stressing the need to work collectively to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Emphasizing that transnational organized crime must be addressed in full respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States and in accordance with the rule of law as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions,

Encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner,

Recognizing the need to maintain a balance in the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime between all relevant priorities identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing also that, thanks to its broad membership and wide scope of application, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime offers an important basis for international cooperation, inter alia for extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation, and represents in this regard a useful tool that should be further utilized,

Mindful of the need to ensure universal adherence to and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and urging States parties to make full and effective use of these instruments,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a regional approach to programming, based on continuing consultations and partnerships at the national and regional levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

Recognizing the general progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping and trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims, their families and witnesses, as well as drug trafficking and international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance,

Reiterating its concern regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolution 65/232;[566]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[557] as the main tools of the international community to fight transnational organized crime;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the number of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has reached one hundred and sixty-four, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combat transnational organized crime;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption[558] and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

5. *Encourages* States parties and signatories to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to support the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental working group established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its fifth session to develop a mechanism or mechanisms for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and looks forward to the possible adoption of the terms of reference for such a review mechanism or mechanisms at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community and the private sector, including the exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation, with a view to examining options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international, legal or other responses to cybercrime;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including

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[566] A/66/303.

providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices;

8. *Recommends* that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments and data collection and focusing on all sectors of the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for this purpose;

9. *Encourages* all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention in order to take into account, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, inter alia, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or of offending and to ensure that such plans are based on the best available evidence and good practices, and stresses that crime prevention should be considered an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their efforts to cooperate, as appropriate, at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels to counter transnational organized crime effectively;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its efforts, within existing resources and within its mandate, in providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of its regional and subregional programmes in a coordinated manner with relevant Member States and regional and subregional organizations;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to investigate and prosecute all forms of crime and to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants, as well as the legitimate interests of victims and witnesses;

13. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with United Nations-related instruments and internationally accepted standards, including, where applicable, recommendations of relevant intergovernmental bodies, inter alia, the Financial Action Task Force and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations against money-laundering;

14. *Urges* Member States to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to enable the return of assets illicitly acquired from corruption to the countries of origin, upon their request, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for asset recovery, in particular chapter V, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue providing assistance to bilateral, regional and international efforts for that purpose, and also urges Member States to combat and penalize corruption, as well as the laundering of its proceeds;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to foster international and regional cooperation, including by facilitating the development of regional networks active in the field of legal and law enforcement cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, where appropriate, and by promoting cooperation among all such networks, including by providing technical assistance where it is required;

16. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and to take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

17. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in developing abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at countering effectively this growing serious crime;

18. *Draws attention* to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[566] namely, piracy, cybercrime, abuse and exploitation of children, trafficking in cultural property, illicit financial flows and illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and invites the Office to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing those issues, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 of 25 July 2007 and 2007/19 of 26 July 2007 on the strategy for the period 2008–2011 for the Office;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in

specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

20. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to address effectively transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, as well as corruption and terrorism;

21. *Urges* States parties to use the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[562] for broad cooperation in preventing and combating criminal offences against cultural property, especially in returning such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and invites States parties to exchange information on all aspects of criminal offences against cultural property, in accordance with their national laws, and to coordinate administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, for the prevention, early detection and punishment of such offences;

22. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support them in their efforts to address its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, technical assistance;

23. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against transnational organized crime, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

24. *Encourages* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in continuing to provide targeted technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy by sea, including by assisting Member States in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

25. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates;

26. *Encourages* States parties to continue to provide full support to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including providing information to the conferences regarding compliance with the treaties;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the conferences of the parties to the conventions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with its mandate;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment and successful functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages States parties and signatories to the Convention to provide full support to the Mechanism, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

29. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 24 to 28 October 2011, and the resolutions adopted at the session, including the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption, and requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly a report on the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

30. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invites Member States to provide the Office with appropriate resources for its mandate;

31. *Requests* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the rule of law, taking also into account the work undertaken by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies;

32. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals and handbooks developed

and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

33. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority accorded to it and in accordance with the increasing demand for its services, in particular with regard to the provision of increased assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report referred to in paragraph 34 above information on the status of ratifications or accessions to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

RESOLUTION 66/182

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/463, para. 25)[567]

66/182. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/231 of 21 December 2010 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[568]

Bearing in mind that weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms, and bearing in mind also the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Aware of the devastating impact of new and more dynamic crime trends on the national economies of African States, such as the high levels of transnational organized crime being recorded in Africa, including the utilization of digital technology to commit all types of cybercrime, illicit trafficking in cultural property and drugs, piracy and money-laundering, and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable development in Africa,

Noting with concern that in most African countries the existing criminal justice system does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and adequate infrastructure and is therefore ill-equipped to manage the emergence of new crime trends, and acknowledging the challenges that Africa faces in litigation processes and the management of correctional institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of Governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007–2012), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention and good governance and strengthened justice administration,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development as a complement to crime prevention strategies,

Emphasizing the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies,

Noting that the financial situation of the Institute has greatly affected its capacity to deliver its services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

2. *Also commends* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its working relationship with the Institute by supporting and involving the Institute in the implementation of a number of activities, including those contained in the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007–2012), on strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa;

3. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries which are promoting

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[567] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by Uganda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States).

[568] A/66/131.

crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

5. *Encourages* the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies;

6. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Board of the Institute, at its eleventh ordinary session, held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 April 2011, to carry out a review of the Institute to ensure that it can fulfil its mandate and assume a more prominent role in dealing with existing crime;

8. *Also welcomes* the introduction by the Institute of a cost-sharing initiative in its execution of various programmes with Member States, partners and United Nations entities;

9. *Urges* all Member States and non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue adopting concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

10. *Urges* all States that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[569] as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[570]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate, bearing in mind that the precarious financial situation of the Institute greatly undermines its capacity to deliver services effectively;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the Institute with the core professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

13. *Encourages* the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work closely with the Institute;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making concrete proposals, including for the provision of additional core professional staff, to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/183

Adopted at the 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/464, para. 16)[571]

66/183. International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[572] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[573] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative

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[569] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[570] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[571] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia.

[572] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[573] Resolution S-20/3, annex.

Development,[574] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[575] and the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[576]

Recalling that, in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, the General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session,[577] and called upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining, in a timely manner, their goals and targets,

Recalling also its resolution 53/115 of 9 December 1998, in which it urged Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist and support, upon request, transit States, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support, aiming at enhancing their capacity to fight the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[578] the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome[579] addressing the world drug problem, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[580] and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 65/233 of 21 December 2010 and those on regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors,

Recalling the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolutions 2010/17 and 2010/21 of 22 July 2010 on the realignment of the functions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and changes to the strategic framework,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop, within the United Nations system, an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and the world drug problem, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to comply with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[581] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[582] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[583]

Welcoming also the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the importance both of the universality of the three international drug control conventions against the illicit use and trafficking of drugs and of their implementation,

Welcoming the measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop a thematic and regional programme approach to its activities, and noting the progress in the implementation of such an approach,

Recalling all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fourth session,[584]

Gravely concerned that, despite continuing increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development,

Deeply concerned about the need to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children and young people against the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant treaties, and to prevent the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances, and urging Governments to implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 53/10 of 12 March 2010,[585]

Noting with grave concern the global increased abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances, such as those indicated in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 53/13 of 12 March 2010,[585] as well as the increasing sophistication of the transnational organized criminal groups engaged in their manufacture and distribution,

Noting with grave concern also the global increased abuse and manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants as well as the proliferation of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the emergence of new methods of diversion used by organized criminal groups,

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[574] Resolution S-20/4 E.

[575] Resolution 54/132, annex.

[576] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 8* (E/2003/28/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. C.

[577] Ibid., *2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[578] See resolution 55/2.

[579] See resolution 60/1.

[580] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[581] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[582] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[583] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[584] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[585] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Recognizing that the use of substances that are not controlled under the international drug control treaties and that may pose potential public-health risks has emerged in recent years in several regions of the world, and noting the increasing number of reports about the production or manufacture of substances, most commonly herbal mixtures, including synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists that have psychoactive effects similar to those produced by cannabis, and psychoactive substances marketed as bath salts,

Recognizing also the critical importance of forensic and scientific laboratory and treatment centre data and qualitative information in understanding the problem of illicit synthetic drugs and the range of products available on the illicit market,

Noting the need to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and recalling in that regard Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4 of 12 March 2010[585] and 54/6 of 25 March 2011,[584]

Recognizing that sustained and collective efforts through international cooperation in demand reduction and supply reduction have shown that positive results can be achieved, and expressing its appreciation for the initiatives at the regional and international levels in this regard,

Recognizing also the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and recognizing further the need to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Reaffirming that countering the world drug problem in all its aspects requires a political commitment to reducing supply, as an integral component of a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[586] including the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, also adopted at that session,

Reaffirming equally that reducing illicit drug use and its consequences requires a political commitment to efforts to reduce demand, which must be demonstrated by sustained widespread demand reduction initiatives that integrate a comprehensive public-health approach spanning the spectrum of prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, and that are age- and gender-sensitive, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling the recommendations contained in its resolution 64/182 that the Economic and Social Council devote one of its high-level segments to a theme related to the world drug problem and that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Conscious of the need to raise public awareness of the risks and threats posed to all societies by the different aspects of the world drug problem,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem[587] remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[577] adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

2. *Reaffirms* that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, requires an integrated and balanced approach and must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[588] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[589] on human rights, and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

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[586] Resolutions S-20/4 A–E.

[587] The illicit cultivation of drug crops, the illicit production, manufacture, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors and related criminal activities.

[588] Resolution 217 A (III).

[589] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

4. *Undertakes* to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

5. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the specific needs of women and the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, and commits Member States to investing increased resources in ensuring access to those interventions on a non-discriminatory basis, including in detention facilities, bearing in mind that those interventions should also consider vulnerabilities that undermine human development, such as poverty and social marginalization;

6. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council devote one of its high-level segments to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommends that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

7. *Notes with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to tackling those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting children, young people and their families, also notes with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to working towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable, the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*,[590] and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

8. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate, to develop national responses to address the issue of drug-affected driving by, inter alia, exchanging information and best practices on effective responses, including through engagement with the international scientific and legal communities;

9. *Encourages* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4[585] and 54/6,[584] the adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their efforts in that regard;

10. *Acknowledges* the continuing efforts made and the progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, notes with great concern the continuing illicit production of and trafficking in opium, the continuing illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine, the increasing illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis, the ongoing global spread of the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the increasing diversion of precursors, as well as the related distribution and use of illicit drugs, and stresses the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle those global challenges in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance;

11. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures so as to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and modi operandi of organized criminal groups dedicated to the diversion or smuggling of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular with respect to their trafficking via the Internet, and to continue to notify the International Narcotics Control Board of such information;

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[590] Available from www.who.int/hiv/pub/idu/targetsetting/en/index.html.

12. *Continues to encourage* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 53/11 of 12 March 2010,[585] the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists;

13. *Recognizes* the need to collect relevant data and information regarding international cooperation for countering the world drug problem at all levels, and urges Member States to support dialogue through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to address this issue;

14. *Also recognizes* that:

(*a*) Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances require international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and an integrated and balanced approach, taking into account the rule of law and, where appropriate, security concerns, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*b*) Such crop control strategies include, inter alia, alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, eradication and law enforcement measures;

(*c*) Such crop control strategies should be in full conformity with article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[583] and appropriately coordinated and phased in accordance with national policies in order to achieve the sustainable eradication of illicit crops, noting furthermore the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in such strategies, coordinated with other development measures, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication in affected rural areas, taking due account of the traditional licit uses of crops where there is historical evidence of such use and giving due consideration to the protection of the environment;

15. *Further recognizes* the significant role played by developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes, and invites them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, including those emerging from conflict, with a view to using them, where appropriate, in accordance with the national specificities of each State;

16. *Urges* Member States to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to transit States affected by illicit drug trafficking, directly or through the competent regional and international organizations, in accordance with article 10 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and the need for all States to promote and implement measures to counter the drug problem in all its aspects with an integrated and balanced approach;

17. *Requests* the international community, in particular the countries of destination, to provide, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, urgent and sufficient technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs;

18. *Reiterates* the urgent need for Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation in order to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations to avoid detection and prosecution;

19. *Recognizes* the increasing links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms in some regions of the world and the need to prevent the spread of that problem to other regions, and urges Member States to take adequate measures, consistent with their international treaty obligations and other relevant international standards, to fully cooperate in preventing the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in such firearms and ammunition;

20. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against drug trafficking, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support for national and regional efforts in combating the world drug problem;

21. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and relevant regional organizations involved in combating and addressing the world drug problem, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and scientific standards, and to maximize the benefits from their unique comparative advantage;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request, to continue providing technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, including enhancing the analytical work of laboratories, by carrying out training programmes to develop indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of

the world drug problem and, where appropriate, enhance or develop new national indicators and instruments, and invites Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, and to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and/or by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data;

23. *Invites* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body of the United Nations system on drug-related matters, to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts in supporting States to establish, upon request, operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and in facilitating the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends, with a view to increasing knowledge about the world drug problem at the national, regional and international levels, recognizes the importance of integrating laboratories and providing scientific support to drug control frameworks and of treating quality analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, and urges coordination with other international entities, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

25. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities, including with a view to the full implementation of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[572] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, as well as, where appropriate, relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission at that session,[577] and recommends that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations continue to be allocated to the Office to enable it to carry out its mandates in a consistent and stable manner;

26. *Takes note* of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 of 25 March 2011 on the recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[584] and encourages Member States and the Office to continue addressing the issues within the mandate of the working group in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner;

27. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and, in accordance with Commission resolution 54/8 of 25 March 2011,[584] urges the Board to further strengthen communication with Member States and to work with them in identifying opportunities for more effective control and monitoring of the trade in precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

28. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[581] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[582] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[583] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[591] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[592]

29. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fourth session,[584] the *World Drug Report 2011* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime[593] and the most recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board,[594] and calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact[595] and other relevant international initiatives;

30. *Notes* that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, reaffirms the importance of its work, encourages it to continue to carry out its work in accordance with its mandates, urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assigning, where possible, adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the

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[591] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[592] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[593] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10.

[594] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.1.

[595] See S/2003/641, annex.

Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996, emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, inter alia, through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and calls for enhanced cooperation and understanding between Member States and the Board to enable it to implement all its mandates under the international drug control conventions;

31. *Emphasizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, notes with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and also notes that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

32. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, through consultation in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction;

33. *Encourages* the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard acknowledges the discussions conducted at the twenty-first meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 September 2011, and Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October 2011;

34. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, addressing supply, demand and the diversion of precursor chemicals undertaken by regional organizations and transregional initiatives such as the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Triangular Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other relevant subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, including the counter-narcotics strategy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the period 2011–2016, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, the European pacts to combat international drug trafficking and against synthetic drugs and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Senior Officials on Drug Matters workplan to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009–2015) with the aim of achieving a drug-free South-East Asia by 2015, as well as the recent intensification of partnering between the States members of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America within the framework of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which aims, inter alia, to substantially reduce illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs;

35. *Invites* Member States, in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/14 of 25 March 2011,[584] and in this regard welcomes the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the African Union Commission, in which the two organizations agreed to work towards enhancing the complementarities of their activities;

36. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

37. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[596] and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/229

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.1, para. 22)[597]

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[596] A/66/130.

[597] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

66/229. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 64/154 of 18 December 2009, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights,

Noting the request of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, contained in annex XVI to its report,[598] that the General Assembly authorize an extension of its meeting time,

Noting also that document and translation costs for the reports of States parties constitute the largest part of the budget for the Committee,

Noting further that, while the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[599] has enjoyed a very high level of ratification in a short time, the Committee currently meets for only two sessions of one week per year, and noting that, in particular cases, members of the Committee may require reasonable accommodation, as defined in the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[599] and the Optional Protocol thereto[600] on 30 March 2007, one hundred and fifty-three States have signed and one hundred and six States have ratified the Convention and ninety States have signed and sixty-four States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and that one regional integration organization has ratified the Convention;

2. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol as a matter of priority;

3. *Welcomes* the holding of the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

4. *Invites* States parties to adhere to the page limit established by the Committee for reports of States parties, and notes that this would reduce the operating costs of the Committee;

5. *Notes* the ongoing process of reform aimed at strengthening the treaty body system, including the report of the Secretary-General on measures to improve further the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the treaty body system,[601] and invites the Committee, in the context of this strengthening process, to continue to enhance its working methods and efficiency, including by sharing good practices with other treaty bodies;

6. *Decides* to authorize for the Committee an additional week of meeting time per year to be used consecutive to an existing regular session, bearing in mind the requirements of the Committee for reasonable accommodation, and without prejudice to the ongoing process of reform aimed at strengthening the treaty body system;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[602] and the activities undertaken in support of the Convention;

9. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to continue its work to mainstream the Convention throughout the United Nations system through its Strategy and Plan of Action, approved in 2010, and calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue strengthening their cooperation in this regard;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including by providing assistance with a view to achieving universal adherence;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take further actions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system in accordance with the Convention, including the retention and recruitment of persons with disabilities;

13. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including to children and young people to

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[598] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 55* (A/66/55).

[599] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[600] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[601] A/66/344.

[602] A/66/121.

promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol and on the implementation of the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/230

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/462/Add.3, para. 33),[603] by a recorded vote of 83 to 21, with 39 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay

Against: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia

66/230. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[604] and recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights[605] and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Reaffirming also its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent of which is resolution 65/241 of 24 December 2010, those of the Commission on Human Rights, and those of the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which are resolutions 13/25 of 26 March 2010[606] and 16/24 of 25 March 2011,[607]

Welcoming the statements made by the President of the Security Council on 11 October 2007 and 2 May 2008,[608] and the Security Council statements to the press of 22 May and 13 August 2009,[609]

Welcoming also the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar[610] and the observations contained therein, and recalling his visit to the country on 3 and 4 July 2009 and the visits of his Special Adviser on Myanmar from 31 January to 3 February and on 26 and 27 June 2009, on 27 and 28 November 2010 and from 11 to 13 May and from 31 October to 4 November 2011, while urging the Government of Myanmar to continue to make progress in its cooperation with the good offices mission, including by facilitating further visits,

Welcoming further the visit to Myanmar of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar from 21 to 25 August 2011 and the access granted to political and other actors, including prisoners, welcoming the reports of the Special Rapporteur,[611] and urging the implementation of the recommendations contained therein and in previous reports,

Deeply concerned that many of the urgent calls contained in the above-mentioned resolutions, as well as the statements of other United Nations bodies concerning the situation of human rights in Myanmar, have not yet been acted upon,

Reaffirming the essential importance of a genuine process of dialogue and national reconciliation for a transition to democracy,

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[603] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

[604] Resolution 217 A (III).

[605] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[606] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[607] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[608] S/PRST/2007/37 and S/PRST/2008/13; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2007–31 July 2008.*

[609] SC/9662 and SC/9731.

[610] A/66/267.

[611] See A/66/365 and A/HRC/16/59.

Acknowledging the publicly stated commitment of the President of Myanmar to implement reform, promote national reconciliation, safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote good governance, democracy and the rule of law, and acknowledging also the stated commitment of the President to addressing social, economic and environmental issues,

Welcoming the recent talks between the Government of Myanmar and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, while urging the Government to take further steps to advance an effective and genuine dialogue with the broad spectrum of political parties, including the National League for Democracy, pro-democracy actors, ethnic minorities and other relevant stakeholders in a genuine process of dialogue, national reconciliation and transition to democracy,

Considering that democratic, transparent and inclusive elections must be the cornerstone of any democratic reform process, and deeply regretting that the 2010 general elections represent a missed opportunity in that regard, noting, in particular, the restrictions imposed by the electoral laws, limited access to the media, reported incidents of official intimidation, the cancellation of elections in certain ethnic areas and the lack of independence of the electoral commission, and expressing concern at the failure of the electoral commission to follow up on complaints about the electoral process, including about voting procedures,

Encouraging the continued cooperation of the Government of Myanmar with the international community in order to achieve concrete progress with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms and political processes, and noting the stated intention of the Government to do so,

1. *Expresses grave concern* about the ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar, while recognizing the commitment made by the Government of Myanmar to implement reforms to address those violations;

2. *Welcomes* the recent talks between the Government of Myanmar and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and opposition parties, and encourages the Government to develop the current talks into a substantive and regular dialogue while comprehensively engaging with the democratic opposition, including the National League for Democracy, and political, ethnic and civil society groups and actors in order to begin an all-inclusive and democratic reform process leading to national reconciliation and lasting peace in Myanmar;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to continue to ensure that no restrictions are placed on the exercise by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of all her human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular with regard to the freedom of movement and the right to participate fully in the political process, including through engagement with relevant stakeholders, and to take adequate measures to protect her physical safety;

4. *Welcomes* the release on 12 October 2011 of more than 200 prisoners of conscience, and strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to release without further delay and without conditions all prisoners of conscience, including the Chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, U Hkun Htun Oo, the leader of the 88 Generation Students Group, U Min Ko Naing, one of the founders of the 88 Generation Students Group, Ko Ko Gyi, human rights defender U Myint Aye and the leader of the All Burma Monks' Alliance, U Gambira, and to allow their full participation in the political process, emphasizing that their unrestricted release is fundamental to national reconciliation, and strongly calls upon the Government to reveal the whereabouts of persons who are detained or have been subjected to enforced disappearance and to desist from further politically motivated arrests;

5. *Notes* the establishment of new national, regional and state legislatures in Myanmar and some steps taken to engage legislatures on issues relevant to the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages further efforts in that regard;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to lift all restrictions imposed on the representatives of political parties as well as on other political and civil society actors in the country, including by amending the relevant laws, and to ensure that the upcoming by-elections are held in a participatory, inclusive and transparent manner, while recognizing the announcement of changes in the electoral law that would allow for wider participation, and urging that they be put into effect;

7. *Notes* the stated intention and first initiatives of the Government of Myanmar to carry out media reform and open up space for the press, and strongly calls upon the Government of Myanmar to lift restrictions on the freedom of assembly, association and movement and the freedom of expression, including for free and independent media, to improve the availability and accessibility of Internet and mobile telephone services, and to end the use of censorship, including the use of the Electronic Transactions Law to prevent the reporting of views critical of the Government;

8. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the formation of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, encourages the Government of Myanmar to ensure that it is established and mandated in such a way as to be an independent, credible and effective institution, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ("the Paris Principles"),[612] and, further, encourages the Commission to receive complaints and to investigate violations, and recommends that the Government seek technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations

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[612] Resolution 48/134, annex.

High Commissioner for Human Rights in the development of that new institution, noting some initial contacts in this regard;

9. *Expresses grave concern* at the continuing practice of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and urges the Government of Myanmar to undertake without further delay a full, transparent, effective, impartial and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations and to bring to justice those responsible in order to end impunity for violations of human rights, and, regretting that previous calls to that effect have not been heeded, calls upon the Government to do so as a matter of priority and, if necessary, drawing on the assistance of the United Nations;

10. *Takes note* of the recent steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to review some national legislation, and calls upon the Government to undertake a transparent, inclusive and comprehensive review of compliance of the Constitution and all national legislation with international human rights law, fully engaging with democratic opposition, civil society groups, ethnic groups and other stakeholders, while recalling once more that the procedures established for the drafting of the Constitution resulted in a de facto exclusion of opposition groups from the process;

11. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the independence of lawyers, to guarantee due process of law, and to fulfil earlier assurances made to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to begin a dialogue on judicial reform;

12. *Expresses its concern* about the conditions in prisons and other detention facilities and consistent reports of ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience, including torture, and about the moving of prisoners of conscience to isolated prisons far from their families where they cannot receive regular visits, or food and medicine, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to ensure that proper investigations are conducted of all deaths in prison;

13. *Expresses deep concern* about the resumption of armed conflict and the breakdown of long-standing ceasefires in areas including Kachin and Shan States, as a result of continued pressures imposed by the national authorities on certain ethnic groups and the exclusion of some key ethnic political parties from the political process and from decisions affecting their lives, while noting some steps taken to establish ceasefires in other areas, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to protect the civilian population in all parts of the country and for all concerned to use political means to re-establish ceasefire agreements, and also calls upon the Government to expand the offer of peace talks with armed groups on a nationwide basis;

14. *Strongly calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to take urgent measures to put an end to continuing grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the targeting of persons based on their belonging to particular ethnic groups, the targeting of civilians as such in military operations, and rape and other forms of sexual violence, and to end impunity for such acts;

15. *Also strongly calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to end the practice of systematic forced displacement of large numbers of persons within their country and other causes of refugee flows into neighbouring countries;

16. *Expresses its concern* about the continuing discrimination, human rights violations, violence, displacement and economic deprivation affecting numerous ethnic minorities, including, but not limited to, the Rohingya ethnic minority in Northern Rakhine State, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to take immediate action to bring about an improvement in their respective situations, and to grant citizenship to the Rohingya ethnic minority;

17. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to intensify its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other partners to conduct adequate human rights and international humanitarian law training for its armed forces, police and prison personnel, to ensure their strict compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and to hold them accountable for any violations thereof;

18. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to consider ratifying and acceding to remaining international human rights treaties, which would enable a dialogue with the other human rights treaty bodies, while noting some initial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

19. *Also calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to allow human rights defenders to pursue their activities unhindered and to ensure their safety, security and freedom of movement in that pursuit;

20. *Strongly calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to put an immediate end to the continuing recruitment and use of child soldiers by the armed forces and other armed groups, in violation of international law by all parties, to intensify measures to ensure the protection of children from armed conflict, to pursue its collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to swiftly conclude and implement an effective joint action plan for the national armed forces, to facilitate access for dialogue on action plans with other parties listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, and to allow unrestricted access to all areas where children are recruited for those purposes;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the prolongation of the supplementary understanding between the International Labour Organization and the Government of Myanmar on forced labour, and the reported progress on changes in law and practice

to eliminate the use of forced labour, particularly in relation to awareness-raising, but expresses grave concern at the continuing practice of forced labour, including the reported use of civilian porters, including convict porters, and calls upon the Government to intensify its cooperation with the International Labour Organization on the basis of the understanding, with a view to extending action against forced labour as widely as possible throughout the country and to fully implementing with urgency the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry of the International Labour Organization;

22. *Welcomes* the approval of the Labour Organizations Bill, and the prior constructive consultation on it with the International Labour Organization, and encourages its full implementation;

23. *Also welcomes* the positive steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to facilitate and improve humanitarian response, and calls upon the Government to take further measures to allow humanitarian assistance to reach all persons in need throughout the country by ensuring timely, safe, full and unhindered access to all parts of Myanmar, including conflict and border areas, for the United Nations, international humanitarian organizations and their partners, taking into account the need to process swiftly requests for visa and in-country travel permission;

24. *Further welcomes* the invitation extended to the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide some technical assistance in prisons, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to allow it to carry out other activities in accordance with its mandate, in particular by granting access to persons detained and to areas of internal armed conflict;

25. *Encourages* the Government of Myanmar to continue to cooperate with international health entities on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;

26. *Reaffirms its full support* for the good offices of the Secretary-General pursued through his Special Adviser on Myanmar, consistent with the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,[610] and urges the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with the good offices mission, including by facilitating the visits of the Special Adviser to the country and granting him unrestricted access to all relevant stakeholders, including the highest level of leadership, political parties, human rights defenders, representatives of ethnic groups, student leaders and other opposition groups, and to respond substantively and without delay to the proposals of the Secretary-General, including the establishment of a United Nations office in support of the mandate of good offices;

27. *Welcomes* the role played by countries neighbouring Myanmar and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in support of the good offices mission of the Secretary-General;

28. *Also welcomes* the continued contribution of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar in support of the work of the good offices mission;

29. *Further welcomes* the visit of the Special Rapporteur to Myanmar from 21 to 25 August 2011 and the access granted to him, and urges the Government of Myanmar to implement the recommendations addressed to the Government in his report[613] and to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the exercise of his mandate, including by facilitating further visits;

30. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to engage in a dialogue with the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to ensuring full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

31. *Acknowledges* the participation by the Government of Myanmar in the universal periodic review in January 2011 as the State under review, and strongly encourages the Government to implement the recommendations accepted, including the recommendations to consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[605] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[605] and other core human rights treaties, while also urging the Government to reconsider the many important recommendations which were rejected and to seek technical cooperation from the Office of the High Commissioner in this regard;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(*b*) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(*c*) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session, on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur.

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[613] See A/66/365.

VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee[*]

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RESOLUTION 66/4

Adopted at the 32nd plenary meeting, on 11 October 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/492, para. 6)

66/4. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter V of the report of the Committee on Contributions on its seventy-first session,[1]

Reaffirming the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to bring to the attention of Member States the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C, including through an early announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations* and through direct communication;

4. *Urges* all Member States requesting exemption under Article 19 of the Charter to submit as much information as possible in support of their requests and to consider submitting such information in advance of the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C so as to enable the collation of any additional detailed information that may be necessary;

5. *Agrees* that the failure of the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond their control;

6. *Decides* that the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia shall be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its sixty-sixth session.

RESOLUTION 66/8

Adopted at the 58th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/525, para. 7)

66/8. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006, 62/224 of 22 December 2007 and 65/244 of 24 December 2010,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-first session,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[3]

3. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

4. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 131 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination,[2] and reaffirms the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 62/236 of 22 December 2007, 63/260 of 24 December 2008, 64/243 of 24 December 2009 and 65/244 of 24 December 2010 concerning the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, and in

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/66/11).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 16* (A/66/16).

[3] ST/SGB/2000/8.

this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to abide by those mandates;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on evaluation,[4] on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/11[5] and on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development.[6]

RESOLUTION 66/232

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/626, para. 7)

66/232. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/227 of 22 December 2009, 64/268 of 24 June 2010, 65/243 A of 24 December 2010 and 65/243 B of 30 June 2011,

Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements and the report of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2010,[7] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the letter dated 12 July 2011 from the Chair of the Board of Auditors transmitting the report of the Board on the implementation of its recommendations relating to the biennium 2008–2009[8] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

1. *Accepts* the financial report and audited financial statements and the report and audit opinion of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2010;[7]

2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;[10]

3. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the letter dated 12 July 2011 from the Chair of the Board of Auditors transmitting the report of the Board on the implementation of its recommendations relating to the biennium 2008–2009;[8]

4. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[9]

5. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its report and the streamlined format thereof;

6. *Also commends* the Board of Auditors for its identification of common reasons for the lack of full implementation of the recommendations, as well as for good practices in relation to the implementation and follow-up of its reports;

7. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to resume its efforts to develop, as a matter of priority, a simple organization-wide risk management approach without imposing onerous burdens on country operations;

8. *Acknowledges* the improvements made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, notes the concerns of the Board about the significant deficiencies found in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in matters relating to internal control and the management of assets, requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to continue to implement the recommendations of the Board, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to expeditiously develop an action plan with a time frame to address the concerns and systemic problems previously identified by the Board;

9. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen administrative and institutional measures to address the root causes of recurring issues and to minimize the ageing of the previous recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[11] and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure that any future arrangements provide for a sound and reliable internal audit;

11. *Requests* the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to request the Board of Auditors to report on the internal audit arrangements in line with paragraph 1 (*d*) of the annex to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;[12]

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/66/16), chap. II, sect. B.

[5] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

[6] Ibid., sect. B.

[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/66/5/Add.5).

[8] A/66/139.

[9] A/66/377.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5E* (A/66/5/Add.5), chap. II.

[11] A/66/376.

[12] ST/SGB/2003/7 and Amend.1.

12. *Emphasizes* that the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards is a tool for establishing better accountability and financial management, and requests the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure the arrangements necessary to realize the maximum benefits of the implementation of the Standards;

13. *Notes with concern*, in this regard, the reservations expressed by the Board of Auditors about the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) completing the preparations necessary for the successful implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in 2012, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure the further intensification of its efforts so that its financial statements are fully compliant with the implementation requirements of the Standards within the scheduled time frame;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in a prompt and timely manner, to continue to hold programme managers accountable for the non-implementation of the recommendations and to effectively address the root causes of the problems highlighted by the Board;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations, as well as on the financial statements of its funds and programmes, a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board, in particular those which have not yet been fully implemented that are two or more years old;

16. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the priorities for their implementation, including the office holders to be held accountable and measures taken in that regard;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to consider, where they have not done so, exploring web-based follow-up systems, in line with lessons learned and best practices, to track the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, including the updated status of their acceptance, implementation and impact.

RESOLUTION 66/233

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/642, para. 6)

66/233. Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, 63/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009 and 65/245 of 24 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011[13] and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,[14]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[15]

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 65/311 of 19 July 2011,

I

Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011;[13]

2. *Approves* the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2012 and 2013, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[16] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/66/32).

[14] A/66/118 and Corr.1.

[15] A/66/397.

[16] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/66/32), annex II.

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012 and 2013 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230 and 65/245 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

7. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences in resolutions involving expenditure, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to the meetings of Member States;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[17]

3. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

4. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2010 was 85 per cent, as compared with 86 per cent in 2009 and 85 per cent in 2008, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

5. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

6. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the utilization factor of the bodies owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

7. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2010 was 94 per cent, as compared with 95 per cent in 2009, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to strive to optimize the utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

8. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

10. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 84 per cent in 2010, as compared with 79 per cent in 2009, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including

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[17] ST/AI/416.

resolution 65/245, section II.A, paragraph 10, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2010, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Notes with concern* the decrease in the utilization rate of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and recognizes the ongoing promotional efforts and initiatives of the Commission;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

15. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiencies and effectiveness in conference services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at its sixty-seventh session, a comprehensive review of conference servicing highlighting any duplications and redundancies, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of its services;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences to consult with those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources of the past three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the temporary relocation of conference-servicing staff to swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

2. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on all matters related to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

5. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

III

Integrated global management

1. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of the global information technology project, aimed at integrating, across duty stations, information technology into meetings management and documentation-processing systems, and the global approach to harmonizing standards and information technology and sharing good practices and technological achievements among conference services at the four main duty stations;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General, using in-house capacity, to improve the utilization of conference services, in particular through the implementation of the project on the Electronic Meetings Planning and Resource Allocation System (e-Meets) and the interpreters assignment programme (e-APG module) ("project 2"),[18] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on other efforts to that end;

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[18] See A/63/119 and Corr.1, sect. II.B.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the project on global documentation management ("project 3")[18] and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

8. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

9. *Also reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report on a regular basis to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and committee Chairs and Secretaries on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly apprised of progress made in integrated global management;

14. *Notes with concern* that the Secretary-General did not include in his report on the pattern of conferences[14] information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230 and in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General redouble his efforts to include this information in his next report on the pattern of conferences;

15. *Notes* the undertakings of the Secretary-General described in paragraph 25 of his report, and requests him to continue to assess the conference management efficiency and accountability mechanisms across the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

16. *Also notes* the flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

17. *Takes note* of paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[15] welcomes the proximity rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to rigorously apply the proximity rule to those meetings that are applicable without jeopardizing the quality of the services and to report thereon to the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences in 2012;

IV

Matters related to documentation and publications

1. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-seventh session;

3. *Reiterates with concern its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages be strictly respected as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

5. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

7. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties of the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

8. *Recognizes* the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

9. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

10. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

11. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

13. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(*a*) A summary of the report;

(*b*) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(*c*) Relevant background information;

15. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

16. *Notes with concern* that only 52 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and requests the Secretary-General to enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

18. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 16, of its resolution 65/245 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

19. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

20. *Notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

21. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies of conference management;

22. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

23. *Notes* the concept of "paper-smart" meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report defining in detail this emerging concept, clearly identifying the appropriate technologies for its effective implementation, including the technological benchmark and procurement needs, including those related to the provision of technological support to Member States, business continuity plans, human resources implications and training needs at the four duty stations, bearing in mind the need for document and data security, as well as proper archiving;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 23 above the lessons learned from the meetings that will implement the paper-smart concept on a trial basis with the full consent of the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

25. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

28. *Notes* the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

29. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration, including of its legal, financial and human resources implications, by the General Assembly and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project mentioned above to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

V

Matters related to translation and interpretation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held twice a year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

4. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 4, of its resolution 65/245, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretariat to fill current vacancies in the language services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, reiterates its request that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates in Nairobi, and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session of efforts in this regard;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to increase the proportion of translation done contractually, with a view to achieving, inter alia, further efficiencies where this mode of delivery yields a final product that is of comparable quality to in-house translation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the experience,

lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of the staff needed to carry out this function;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, inter alia, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

13. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, and requests the Secretary-General to use the appropriate means to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

14. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of two memorandums of understanding with two universities in Africa, and that no memorandums of understanding have been signed with Latin American institutions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-seventh session;

16. *Requests* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to continue to increase its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services at the four main duty stations;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

18. *Notes* that the consolidated lists of individuals and entities subject to sanctions, according to the sanctions committees of the Security Council, have not yet been translated into all six official languages, reiterates its recommendation that the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council look further into the practices related to the issuance of these consolidated lists, including their translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/234

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/627, para. 7)

66/234. Human resources management

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/222 A and B of 23 December 1994 and 20 July 1995, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 52/219 of 22 December 1997, 52/252 of 8 September 1998, 53/221 of 7 April 1999, 55/258 of 14 June 2001, 57/305 of 15 April 2003, 59/266 of 23 December 2004, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/238 of 23 December 2005, 60/254 of 8 May 2006, 60/260 of 8 May 2006, 61/244 of 22 December 2006, 62/238, section XXI, of 22 December 2007, 62/248 of 3 April 2008, 63/250 of 24 December 2008, 63/271 of 7 April 2009 and 65/247 of 24 December 2010, and its decisions 64/546 of 22 December 2009 and 64/548 A of 24 December 2009,

Recalling also its resolutions 52/226 A and B of 31 March 1998, 54/14 of 29 October 1999, 58/296 of 18 June 2004, 59/287 of 13 April 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/246 of 22 December 2006, 61/276, section VIII, of 29 June 2007 and 62/269 of 20 June 2008, as well as its other relevant resolutions and decisions,

Having considered the relevant reports of the Secretary-General on human resources management submitted to the General Assembly[19] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20]

Having also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on inter-agency staff mobility and work-life balance in the organizations of the United Nations system,[21] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[22]

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[19] A/65/213, A/66/98, A/66/135, A/66/319 and Corr.1 and A/66/347.

[20] A/65/537, sect. VII, and A/66/511 and Corr.1.

[21] See A/66/355.

Reaffirming that the staff of the United Nations is an invaluable asset of the Organization, and commending its contribution to furthering the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the fundamental importance of human resources management reform in the United Nations as a contribution to the strengthening of the international civil service,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Expresses serious concern* that progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, has been slow;

3. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to increase his efforts to attain and monitor the goal of gender parity in the Secretariat, in particular at senior levels, and in this context to ensure that women, especially those from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, are appropriately represented within the Secretariat, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Reiterates* that the Secretary-General has to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity serve as the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts to ensure the attainment of equitable geographical distribution in the Secretariat and to also ensure as wide a geographical distribution of staff as possible in all departments, offices and levels, including at the Director and higher levels, of the Secretariat, and in that regard reiterates its request contained in paragraph 64 of resolution 65/247;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the recruitment of candidates is carried out in accordance with the established recruitment procedures, including through the use of the national competitive recruitment examination roster, which has been replaced by the young professionals programme;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[23] and requests the Secretary-General to address the problem of the high number of posts subject to the system of geographical ranges not encumbered by staff having geographical status;

8. *Stresses* that the Secretary-General should not recur to the practice of temporarily filling posts in the Professional and higher categories with General Service staff members who have not passed the General Service to Professional category examination other than on an exceptional basis, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that temporary occupation of such posts by the General Service staff shall not exceed a period of one year, effective 1 January 2013, and to report thereon, including on the rationale for such practice, to the General Assembly every two years, starting at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Takes note* of paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions referred to in paragraph 7 above, reiterates section VII of resolution 65/247, and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General on human resources management, which should include, inter alia, details on the implementation of that resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

10. *Welcomes* the launch of the online reporting tool entitled "HR Insight", and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the information provided on the portal is systematically developed and periodically updated;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on the activities of the Ethics Office to be submitted during the main part of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to provide information on his efforts to address and mitigate personal conflicts of interest, and in this regard requests him to propose measures such as the extension to other staff categories of the financial disclosure programme and post-employment restrictions;

12. *Decides* that staff regulation 1.2 (*m*) shall be amended to read:

> "A conflict of interest occurs when, by act or omission, a staff member's personal interests interfere with the performance of his or her official duties and responsibilities or with the integrity, independence and impartiality required by the staff member's status as an international civil servant. When an actual or possible conflict of interest does arise, the conflict shall be disclosed by staff members to their head of office, mitigated by the Organization and resolved in favour of the interests of the Organization";

13. *Welcomes* the significant efforts made by the Ethics Office towards the implementation of the financial disclosure programme, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance by staff in fulfilling their financial disclosure requirements;

14. *Decides* to absorb the amount of 398,300 United States dollars for the development of the information

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[22] A/66/355/Add.1.

[23] A/66/511 and Corr.1.

technology platform within the amount of 3,880,100 dollars allocated to the Ethics Office in the regular budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

15. *Recognizes* the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, and in this regard takes note of the report of the Unit on inter-agency staff mobility and work-life balance in the organizations of the United Nations system;[21]

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to expedite the conclusion of a revised version of the inter-agency agreement on inter-organization movement and to ensure its utilization by all organizations of the United Nations common system;

17. *Recalls* section C, paragraph 13, of its resolution 65/248 of 24 December 2010;

18. *Also recalls* section II, paragraph 34, of its resolution 65/247, and looks forward to its consideration of a comprehensive proposal on a mobility policy at its sixty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 66/235

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/644, para. 7)

66/235. United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/198 of 21 December 1989, 51/216 of 18 December 1996, 52/216 of 22 December 1997, 53/209 of 18 December 1998, 55/223 of 23 December 2000, 56/244 of 24 December 2001, 57/285 of 20 December 2002, 58/251 of 23 December 2003, 59/268 of 23 December 2004, 60/248 of 23 December 2005, 61/239 of 22 December 2006, 62/227 of 22 December 2007, 63/251 of 24 December 2008, 64/231 of 22 December 2009 and 65/248 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011,[24]

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the common system,

Reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening the salaries, allowances and personnel standards of the organizations of the United Nations common system,

Convinced that the United Nations common system constitutes the best instrument through which to secure staff with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity for the international civil service, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission for 2011;[24]

3. *Encourages* the Commission to continue to coordinate and regulate the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by Member States on their national civil services;

4. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;[25]

5. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

A. Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

1. Mobility and hardship scheme

1. *Recognizes* the hardship conditions under which staff members are often required to perform their official duties and the disruption that operationally required mobility may impose on staff;

2. *Endorses* the decisions of the Commission relating to the mobility and hardship scheme as contained in paragraph 38 of its report;[24]

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of mobility as a means of developing a more versatile, multi-skilled and experienced international civil service that is capable of fulfilling complex mandates, and requests the Commission to provide an overview of the different existing mobility schemes in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

4. *Takes note* of the decisions of the Commission contained in paragraph 47 of its report and annex III thereto, and decides, with effect from 1 January 2012, that a 2.5 per cent increase shall be granted for the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances, while the additional non-family hardship

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[24] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/66/30 and Corr.2).

[25] Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.

elements for staff serving in non-family duty stations shall be adjusted by the same percentage;

5. *Also takes note* of the conclusions of the Commission with respect to the establishment of danger pay as contained in paragraph 59 of its report;

6. *Further takes note* of paragraph 56 of the report of the Commission regarding the United Nations system-wide financial implications of the establishment of danger pay;

2. Performance management

Recalling its resolutions 51/216 and 63/251,

Recognizing the differing organizational strategies and cultures prevailing in the United Nations common system, and considering that a flexible approach to performance management would be desirable,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the work of the Commission with regard to the performance management framework, which would assist organizations of the United Nations common system in securing and retaining staff of the highest standard of efficiency, competency and integrity as stipulated in the Charter;

2. *Notes* that the Commission will continue its work on rewards and incentives, and requests it to take the lead in analysing new approaches in human resources management;

3. *Approves* the performance management framework contained in annex IV to the report of the Commission,[24] which should be taken into account by the organizations of the United Nations common system in furthering their policies on this matter, and requests the Commission to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation by the organizations of measures taken in response to the recommendations of the Commission;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 90 of the report of the Commission, notes the intention of the Commission to consider the use of merit steps, and requests the Commission to report on its conclusion to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

3. Education grant methodology

1. *Endorses*, with effect from the school year in progress on 1 January 2012, the amendment to the current eligibility requirements for the receipt of the education grant, as contained in paragraph 96 (*a*) of the report of the Commission;[24]

2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations common system to harmonize the education grant eligibility criteria with respect to the minimum age, as specified in paragraph 96 (*a*) of the report of the Commission;

B. Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories

1. Post adjustment matters

Recalls paragraphs 103 and 123 of the report of the Commission[24] and paragraph 2 of section I.A of its resolution 51/216, and requests the Commission to explore the feasibility and suitability of possible measures to reflect in the administration of the post adjustment system the pay freeze of the comparator civil service; to determine whether the implementation of such measures falls under its authority; to exercise such authority, as appropriate; and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

2. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2012, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 120 (*a*) of its report,[24] the revised base/floor salary scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex V.A to the report;

2. *Also approves*, with effect from 1 January 2012, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 120 (*b*) of its report, the revised rates of staff assessment used in conjunction with gross base salaries for the Professional and higher categories of staff, as contained in annex V.B to the report;

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission, stated in paragraph 121 of its report, to review the staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross salaries every three years, for revision as appropriate;

3. Evolution of the margin

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

1. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. *Notes* that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011 is estimated at 114.9 and that the average margin level for the past five years (2007–2011) stands at 114.1;

4. Identification of the highest paid national civil service

Takes note of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 106 of its report[24] to terminate its current Noblemaire study to identify the highest paid national civil service and to undertake the next study in 2016;

5. Diversity in the United Nations common system

1. *Notes* the status of geographical distribution in the organizations of the United Nations common system and actions being taken by the organizations to achieve equitable geographical balance;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to conduct studies on recruitment policies and to revert to discussing the issue with recommended measures that would be more favourable to diversity;

3. *Requests* the Commission, when preparing proposals on measures for diversity in the United Nations common system, to bear in mind that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff is professional qualifications, which are key to the capacities of the organizations to deliver on their mandates;

C. Conditions of service in the field

1. Harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system serving in non-family duty stations

1. *Recalls* section C of its resolution 65/248, and requests the Commission, in the context of its annual report, to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its decisions regarding the harmonization of the conditions of service in non-family duty stations during the transition period;

2. *Requests* the Commission and the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to give due regard to the process of timely implementation of its decisions on the harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system serving in non-family duty stations;

2. Rest and recuperation framework

Recalling paragraph 19 of section C of its resolution 65/248, requesting the Commission to regulate the rest and recuperation framework,

Approves, with effect from 1 January 2012, the revised set of criteria for the granting of rest and recuperation travel and the corresponding frequencies of travel as contained in paragraph 238 and annex VIII of the report of the Commission.[24]

RESOLUTION 66/236

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/643, para. 6)

66/236. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities

The General Assembly,

I

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 60/259 of 8 May 2006, 63/265 of 24 December 2008, 63/287 of 30 June 2009, 64/232 of 22 December 2009, 64/263 of 29 March 2010 and 65/250 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011,[26] as well as the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The audit function in the United Nations system"[27] and the related note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[28]

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;

2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;

4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat shall exercise operational independence relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, under the authority of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

5. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to further enhance the level of their cooperation with one another, such as through joint work

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[26] A/66/286 (Part I) and Add.1.

[27] See A/66/73.

[28] A/66/73/Add.1.

planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;[28]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including resolutions of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the attention of relevant managers, and that the Office of Internal Oversight Services also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

9. *Encourages* the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue its efforts aimed at enhancing its audit, investigation, inspection and evaluation functions;

10. *Recalls* paragraphs 7 and 8 of its resolution 64/263, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with comprehensively defining and compiling key oversight terms related to the work of the Office in close consultation with relevant departments and offices, including the Department of Management and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, bearing in mind existing definitions used by the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit, and taking into account the views of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

11. *Encourages* the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue to identify in its analysis in future annual reports general trends and strategic challenges over time regarding internal oversight in the United Nations, including an update on all critical recommendations and taking into account the risk category and the target date for implementation and the office concerned that is to be held accountable for such implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement outstanding and recurring accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services dealing with issues that are systemic in nature;

13. *Notes with concern* the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage all programme managers to increase their efforts to fully implement the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including those relating to cost avoidance, recovery of overpayments, efficiency gains and other improvements, in a prompt and timely manner and to provide detailed justifications in cases where recommendations of the Office are not accepted;

16. *Notes* the role of the Management Committee in monitoring closely the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, and stresses the importance of follow-up with programme managers to ensure the full implementation of those recommendations in a prompt and timely manner;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to reduce the high number of vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in particular at the senior levels;

18. *Reaffirms its concern* over the continuing vacancies in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and in this regard reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to make every effort to fill vacancies in the Office at all levels as a matter of priority, in accordance with the relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

19. *Recognizes* the efforts and initiatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services undertaken to strengthen internal oversight, including the improvement of internal controls, accountability mechanisms, and organizational efficiency and effectiveness, as well as improvements in the monitoring of its recommendations, in accordance with its given mandate, and encourages the Office to continue its efforts in this regard;

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 12 of its resolution 64/263;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with submitting to the General Assembly no later than the main part of its sixty-seventh session a proposal on the dissemination and distribution of internal audit reports, including the parameters and modalities, and in full consultation with key stakeholders, including the Department of Management, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

22. *Takes note* of paragraph 28 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[29] and decides that the Office shall continue its current procedures for reporting to the General Assembly;

23. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit shall continue to be provided with copies of all reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, requests that these be made available within one month of their finalization, and emphasizes the need for comments by the Board and the Unit, as appropriate;

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[29] A/66/286 (Part I).

II

Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

Recalling its resolution 61/275 of 29 June 2007,

Having considered the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011,[30]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

2. *Reaffirms* the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, as contained in the annex to resolution 61/275;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 61/275, and in that regard emphasizes the role of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in ensuring the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

4. *Encourages* United Nations oversight bodies to continue sharing experience, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, in order for the Committee to better conduct its roles and responsibilities under its terms of reference, without prejudice to the respective mandates of United Nations oversight bodies;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of its resolution 64/263, and in this regard:

(*a*) Decides to keep under review observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 19, 20 (*d*), 21, 24, 42 and 43 of the annex to the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009;[31]

(*b*) Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services include a brief description of any impairment of its independence;

6. *Endorses* the observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 14, 17, 18, 20, 26, 31, 37, 40, 42, 44 and 50 of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[30] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation, taking into account the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly relevant to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

RESOLUTION 66/237

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/628, para. 6)

66/237. Administration of justice at the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XI of its resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001, its resolutions 57/307 of 15 April 2003, 59/266 of 23 December 2004, 59/283 of 13 April 2005, 61/261 of 4 April 2007, 62/228 of 22 December 2007, 63/253 of 24 December 2008, 64/233 of 22 December 2009 and 65/251 of 24 December 2010, as well as its decisions 63/531 of 11 December 2008 and 65/513 of 6 December 2010,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations[32] and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services,[33] the report of the Internal Justice Council on administration of justice at the United Nations,[34] the letter dated 4 November 2011 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Fifth Committee[35] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[36]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations[32] and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services;[33]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 61/261, 62/228, 63/253, 64/233 and 65/251 regarding the establishment of the new system of administration of justice;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[36] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

I

System of administration of justice

4. *Notes with appreciation* the achievements produced since the inception of the new system of administration of justice in regard to both the disposal of the backlog and the addressing of new cases, despite the numerous difficulties faced during the implementation of the new system of administration of justice;

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[30] A/66/299.

[31] A/64/288.

[32] A/66/275 and Corr.1.

[33] A/66/224.

[34] A/66/158.

[35] A/C.5/66/9.

[36] A/66/7/Add.6.

5. *Acknowledges* the evolving nature of the new system of administration of justice and the need to carefully monitor its implementation to ensure that it remains within the parameters set out by the General Assembly;

6. *Stresses* that all elements of the new system of administration of justice must work in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the legal and regulatory framework approved by the General Assembly;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the principle of judicial independence in the system of administration of justice;

8. *Reaffirms* its decision, contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 61/261, to establish a new, independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike;

9. *Also reaffirms* that, in accordance with paragraph 28 of resolution 63/253, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal shall not have any powers beyond those conferred under their respective statutes;[37]

10. *Affirms* that recourse to general principles of law and the Charter by the Tribunals is to take place within the context of and consistent with their statutes and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, regulations, rules and administrative issuances;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to institutionalize good management practices in order to address the underlying factors that give rise to disputes in the workplace;

12. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring access for all staff members to the new system of administration of justice, regardless of their duty station;

13. *Invites* all who are involved in the implementation and functioning of the system of administration of justice, including managers and staff members, to recognize that the system of administration of justice has been made possible by contributions from the Member States aiming to ensure that it has a positive impact on staff-management relations and improves the performance of both staff and managers;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 46 of its resolution 65/251 and paragraphs 247 to 293 of the report of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations,[32] and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, for consideration at the main part of its sixty-seventh session, an updated report on issues relevant to its review of the statutes of the Tribunals;

II

Informal system

15. *Recognizes* that the informal system of administration of justice is an efficient and effective option for staff who seek redress of grievances;

16. *Reaffirms* that the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice, emphasizes that all possible use should be made of the informal system in order to avoid unnecessary litigation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to recommend to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session additional measures to encourage recourse to informal resolution of disputes and to avoid unnecessary litigation;

17. *Takes note* of the reference in paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[36] to a "culture of litigation", endorses the remainder of the paragraph, and stresses the importance of developing a culture of dialogue and amicable resolution of dispute through the informal system;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 65/251 regarding the establishment of a single integrated and decentralized Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes, and acknowledges that progress has been made in this regard;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work with the United Nations funds and programmes in order to finalize, as early as possible, revised terms of reference for the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services that reflect the responsibility of the United Nations Ombudsman for the oversight of the entire Office and enhance the coordination among the three pillars of the Office, and to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a report thereon;

20. *Recalls* paragraph 29 of resolution 65/251, welcomes the information provided informally by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services on the financial and administrative implications resulting from settlements reached through informal dispute resolution, and requests the Office to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session another informal briefing on such implications;

21. *Welcomes* the recommendations made by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services to address systemic and cross-cutting issues, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a report containing his views on the recommendations;

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[37] Resolution 63/253, annexes I and II.

22. *Also welcomes* the establishment, in 2010, of the seven regional offices of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services in Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago and Vienna and in the peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, and their initial positive impact;

III

Formal system

23. *Takes note* of paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[36] and requests the Secretary-General to explore all possible ways to bring about more coherent representation and efficient use of resources, taking into account the specificities of representation of the Secretary-General at the Tribunals, and to report thereon at the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

24. *Stresses* the need for the construction of fully equipped courtrooms for the Tribunals, and requests the Secretary-General to provide functional courtrooms with adequate facilities, as a matter of urgency;

25. *Emphasizes* that the formal system of administration of justice must be adequately resourced with regard to posts, travel, hearing/conference rooms, videoconferencing, sound recording, communications systems and up-to-date computer hardware and software;

26. *Notes* the important role played by the Office of Staff Legal Assistance in providing legal assistance to staff members in an independent and impartial manner, and also notes that the Office currently represents staff members in cases before the Dispute Tribunal in New York, Geneva and Nairobi and before the Appeals Tribunal;

27. *Decides* that, pending further consideration of this issue by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, the role of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance shall continue to be that of assisting staff members and their volunteer representatives in processing claims through the formal system of administration of justice, including representation, within the financial parameters agreed upon in the present resolution;

28. *Also decides* to revert, at its sixty-seventh session, to the issue of the mandate, scope and functioning of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit, after consultation with the Internal Justice Council and other relevant bodies, a comprehensive report proposing different options for the representation of staff members before the internal Tribunals, taking into account all relevant resolutions and reports, including the letters of the Sixth Committee to the Fifth Committee, and the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report, including a detailed proposal for a mandatory staff-funded mechanism, reflecting, if necessary, the implications of the different proposals, for consideration by both the Fifth Committee and the Sixth Committee, in their respective capacities, at the sixty-seventh session;

29. *Recalls* article 2 of the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal,[38] and affirms that an action instituted against the Secretary-General under the statute is an action against the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations, responsible for administrative decisions taken by or on behalf of the Organization by staff appointed by the Secretary-General;

30. *Also recalls* article 7 of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal and article 6 of the statute of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal,[39] and requests both Tribunals to review their procedures with regard to the dismissal of manifestly inadmissible cases;

31. *Decides* to amend article 7, paragraph 1 (*c*), of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal to extend the deadline for filing appeals of Dispute Tribunal judgements from 45 days to 60 days and to establish a 30-day deadline for filing appeals of interlocutory orders;

32. *Recalls* paragraph 54 of resolution 62/228, and decides that the time limit for completing management evaluations may be extended by the Dispute Tribunal for a period of up to fifteen days in exceptional circumstances when both parties to a dispute agree;

33. *Also recalls* paragraph 28 of resolution 63/253, reaffirms article 10, paragraphs 5 (*b*) and 7, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal, endorses the practice under the previous United Nations Administrative Tribunal to limit awards in any one case normally to a total of no more than two years net base salary for compensation and in exceptional cases to no more than three years net base salary, and reaffirms the requirement in article 10, paragraph 5 (*b*), that in all cases where the Dispute Tribunal orders the payment of a compensation higher than two years net pay, the Tribunal must provide clear and well-documented reasons for that decision;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session with a report on the practice of tribunals in other international organizations and in Member States comparable to the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal regarding the awarding of exemplary or punitive damages, including their practice with regard to awards for moral damages, emotional distress, procedural irregularities and violations of due process;

35. *Recalls* article 11, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal, and affirms that judgements of the Dispute Tribunal, including judgements, orders or rulings, imposing financial obligations on the Organization are not executable

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[38] Ibid., annex I.

[39] Ibid., annex II.

until the expiry of the time provided for appeal in the statute of the Appeals Tribunal or, if an appeal has been filed in accordance with the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, until the Appeals Tribunal has completed action on such appeal in accordance with articles 10 and 11 of its statute;

36. *Also recalls* article 7 of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal and article 6 of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, and encourages the Tribunals to continue and expand, as appropriate, their practice of consultation in the process for developing amendments to their rules of procedure;[40]

37. *Further recalls* section I, paragraph 5, of its resolution 53/221 of 7 April 1999, in which it underlined its full respect for the prerogatives and responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Charter, and reaffirms that the resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission are binding on the Secretary-General and on the Organization;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a report providing:

(*a*) A proposal for implementing the proposed mechanism for expedited arbitration procedures for individual contractors and consultants provided in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General on administration of justice,[32] including the cost implications for various aspects of the proposal;

(*b*) An analysis of the policy and financial implications in the event that individual contractors and consultants covered by the proposed expedited arbitration procedures were to be permitted access to mediation under the informal system;

39. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a report on access to the system of administration of justice for different categories of non-staff personnel who are not covered under the dispute resolution mechanism proposed in annex II of the report on administration of justice;

40. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 39 above information on measures to be made available with regard to the informal and formal aspects of the system of administration of justice in order to assist such non-staff personnel to address disputes that may arise;

41. *Recalls* paragraph 89 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on administration of justice, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, information on the concrete measures taken to enforce accountability in cases where contested decisions have resulted in awards of compensation to staff;

IV

Financial implications and cost-sharing arrangements

42. *Takes note* of paragraphs 19 to 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[36] decides to extend the mandate for the three ad litem judges of the Dispute Tribunal for one year, subject to review and possible extension for a further year, and also decides to approve, under general temporary assistance, three Legal Officer (P-3), two General Service (Other level) and one General Service (Local level) positions to support the ad litem judges for the same period;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to expedite the finalization of an agreement on a cost-sharing arrangement for the totality of the internal justice system and to report thereon, including on the expected reimbursement of approximately 6.8 million United States dollars from the participating United Nations entities, to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

V

Other issues

44. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a report providing proposals and analysis for a mechanism for addressing possible misconduct of judges, as well as additional views or analysis with regard to the proposals contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations[41] and in the reports of the Internal Justice Council,[42] as well as other proposals, including a proposal for a new mechanism for addressing such misconduct, consisting of one jurist from the highest judicial tribunal drawn from one Member State from each of the five geographical regions appointed or elected by the General Assembly to serve when and as needed;

45. *Stresses* that the Internal Justice Council can help to ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the system of administration of justice, and requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Council with including the views of both the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal in its annual reports;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session, in consultation with the Internal Justice Council and other

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[40] Resolution 64/119, annexes I and II.

[41] A/63/314, paras. 73–79, and A/66/275 and Corr.1, paras. 55–60.

[42] See A/65/304, para. 40, and A/66/158, para. 7.

relevant bodies, a report providing his recommendations and analysis regarding the proposal in the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on a code of conduct for legal representation;[43]

47. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the reports requested in paragraphs 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 28, 34, 38, 39, 43, 44 and 46 above in a single comprehensive report on administration of justice to be submitted to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

48. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters.

RESOLUTION 66/238

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/629, para. 6)

66/238. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

The General Assembly,

I

Second performance report on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Having considered the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,[44] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[45]

Recalling its resolution 49/251 of 20 July 1995 on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which were resolutions 64/239 of 24 December 2009 and 65/252 of 24 December 2010,

1. *Takes note* of the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda[44] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[45]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in section III.B of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2010–2011, the amount of 257,804,100 United States dollars gross (235,327,400 dollars net) approved in its resolution 65/252 for the financing of the Tribunal shall be adjusted by the amount of 722,600 dollars gross (1,635,600 dollars net), for a total amount of 257,081,500 dollars gross (233,691,800 dollars net);

II

Budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2012–2013

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2012–2013[46] and on the revised estimates arising from the effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation,[47]

Having also considered the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[48]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2012–2013[46] and on the revised estimates arising from the effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation;[47]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the support of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the work of the Tribunal;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[48] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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[43] See A/65/304, para. 41.

[44] A/66/557 and Corr.1.

[45] A/66/600.

[46] A/66/368 and Corr.1.

[47] A/66/605.

[48] A/66/600 and A/66/7/Add.22.

4. *Recognizes* the critical importance of retaining highly skilled and experienced staff members with relevant institutional memory in order to successfully complete the trials and meet the targets set out in the completion strategy of the Tribunal;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for innovative solutions in applying the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations for staff retention purposes;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 5 of its resolution 63/256 of 24 December 2008 and paragraph 6 of section II of its resolution 64/239, and requests the Secretary-General to utilize his existing authority under the existing contractual framework to offer contracts to staff, taking into account the needs of the Tribunal;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide guidance to the Tribunal on all matters related to the recruitment and administration of human resources;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to exercise due diligence in applying staff rule 12.3 on exceptions to the Staff Rules in the context of the decisions on retention of the staff members in the Tribunal, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that exceptions granted to the Tribunal based on the existing legislative framework shall not constitute a precedent for other United Nations entities;

9. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 a total amount of 171,623,100 dollars gross (159,535,800 dollars net) for the biennium 2012–2013, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

10. *Also decides* that the total assessment for 2012 under the Special Account, amounting to 85,088,950 dollars, shall consist of:

(*a*) 85,811,550 dollars, being half of the estimated appropriation approved for the biennium 2012–2013;

(*b*) 722,600 dollars, being the decrease in the final appropriation for the biennium 2010–2011 approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of section I above;

11. *Further decides* to apportion the amount of 42,544,475 dollars gross (39,066,150 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012;

12. *Decides* to apportion the amount of 42,544,475 dollars gross (39,066,150 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012;

13. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 11 and 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 6,956,650 dollars approved for the Tribunal for 2012.

Annex

Financing for the biennium 2012–2013 of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

	Gross	*Net*
	(United States dollars)	
Estimated appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	183 324 900	166 527 700
Revised estimates: effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation	(1 547 800)	2 794 300
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	—	—
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	(10 154 000)	(9 786 200)
Estimated initial appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	171 623 100	159 535 800
Total assessment for 2012	**85 088 950**	**78 132 300**
Comprising:		
(*a*) Requirements representing half of the estimated appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	85 811 550	79 767 900
(*b*) Requirements arising from the final appropriation for the biennium 2010–2011	(722 600)	(1 635 600)
Of which:		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012	42 544 475	39 066 150
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012	42 544 475	39 066 150

RESOLUTION 66/239

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/630, para. 6)

66/239. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The General Assembly,

I

Second performance report on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Having considered the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991[49] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[50]

Recalling its resolution 47/235 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which were resolutions 64/240 of 24 December 2009 and 65/253 of 24 December 2010,

1. *Takes note* of the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2010–2011, of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia[49] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[50]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in section IV.B of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2010–2011, the amount of 320,511,800 United States dollars gross (289,810,000 dollars net) approved in its resolution 65/253 for the financing of the Tribunal shall be adjusted by the amount of 6,960,500 dollars gross (a decrease of 3,797,400 dollars net), for a total amount of 327,472,300 dollars gross (286,012,600 dollars net);

II

Budget for the biennium 2012–2013 of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012–2013[51] and on the revised estimates arising from the effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation,[52]

Having also considered the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[53]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2012–2013[51] and on the revised estimates arising from the effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation;[52]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the support of the Government of the Netherlands for the work of the Tribunal;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[53] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Recognizes* the critical importance of retaining highly skilled and experienced staff members with relevant institutional memory in order to successfully complete the trials and meet the targets set out in the completion strategy of the Tribunal;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for innovative solutions in applying the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations for staff retention purposes;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 5 of its resolution 63/256 of 24 December 2008 and paragraph 6 of section II of its resolution 64/239 of 24 December 2009, and requests the Secretary-General to utilize his existing authority under the existing contractual framework to offer contracts to staff, taking into account the needs of the Tribunal;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide guidance to the Tribunal on all matters relating to the recruitment and administration of human resources;

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[49] A/66/555.

[50] A/66/600.

[51] A/66/386 and Corr.1.

[52] A/66/605.

[53] A/66/600 and A/66/7/Add.22.

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to exercise due diligence in applying staff rule 12.3 on exceptions to the Staff Rules in the context of the decisions on retention of the staff members in the Tribunal, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that exceptions granted to the Tribunal based on the existing legislative framework shall not constitute a precedent for other United Nations entities;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide greater clarity on temporary posts and positions funded through general temporary assistance funds in his next report;

10. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 a total amount of 281,036,100 dollars gross (250,814,300 dollars net) for the biennium 2012–2013, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

11. *Also decides* that the financing of the appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013 under the Special Account shall take into account the estimated income of 299,500 dollars for the biennium, which shall be set off against the aggregate amount of the appropriation;

12. *Further decides* that the total assessment for 2012 under the Special Account, amounting to 147,328,800 dollars, shall consist of:

(*a*) 140,368,300 dollars, being half of the estimated appropriation approved for the biennium 2012–2013, after taking into account 149,750 dollars, which is half of the estimated income for the biennium of 299,500 dollars;

(*b*) 6,960,500 dollars, being the increase in the final appropriation for the biennium 2010–2011 approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of section I above;

13. *Decides* to apportion the amount of 73,664,400 dollars gross (60,730,000 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012;

14. *Also decides* to apportion the amount of 73,664,400 dollars gross (60,730,000 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012;

15. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 25,868,800 dollars approved for the Tribunal for 2012.

Annex

Financing for the biennium 2012–2013 of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

	Gross	*Net*
	(United States dollars)	
Estimated appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	282 887 000	252 227 300
Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation	4 707 000	3 952 200
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	—	—
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	(6 557 900)	(5 365 200)
Estimated initial appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	281 036 100	250 814 300
Less:		
Estimated income for the biennium 2012–2013	(299 500)	(299 500)
Total assessment for 2012	**147 328 800**	**121 460 000**
Comprising:		
(*a*) Requirements representing half of the estimated appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013, after taking into account 149,750 dollars, which is half of the estimated income for the biennium 2012–2013 of 299,500 dollars	140 368 300	125 257 400
(*b*) Requirements arising from the final appropriation for the biennium 2010–2011	6 960 500	(3 797 400)
Of which:		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012	73 664 400	60 730 000
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012	73 664 400	60 730 000

RESOLUTION 66/240

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/631, para. 6)

66/240. International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2012–2013, for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals[54] and on the revised estimates arising from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation,[55]

Having also considered the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[56]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010 regarding the establishment of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, comprising a branch for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, which shall commence functioning on 1 July 2012, and a branch for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, which shall commence functioning on 1 July 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2012–2013, of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals[54] and on the revised estimates arising from the effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation;[55]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[56] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to enhance efforts to transfer cases of the Mechanism to national jurisdiction;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 76 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[57] and requests the Secretary-General to report on lessons learned on the use of the "double-hatting" arrangement in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, no later than at the second part of its resumed sixty-sixth session, a report providing detailed information on a comprehensive project management plan for the construction, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, of the proposed new facilities for the archives of the Mechanism, including programmatic and functional requirements, a conceptual design and key milestones from design to construction to occupation;

6. *Decides* to appropriate an initial amount of 3 million United States dollars for the overall construction of the proposed new facilities for the archives;

7. *Authorizes* the expenditures, from within the amount appropriated in paragraph 6 above, to cover only expenses related to the conceptual design phase of the proposed new facilities for the archives;

8. *Decides* to review the project requirements in the context of the consideration of the report requested in paragraph 5 above;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full involvement of the Overseas Property Management Unit of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat in all phases of implementation of the project;

10. *Decides* that the staffing for the continuous activities of the Mechanism shall comprise 67 posts for the biennium 2012–2013, as set out in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General;[54]

11. *Also decides* that the expenses of the Mechanism shall be met through additional resources on the basis of assessed contributions and that such expenses shall be financed through a separate special account;

12. *Further decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals a total amount of 49,771,700 dollars gross (47,325,100 dollars net) for the biennium 2012–2013, to include the amount reflected in paragraph 6 above, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

13. *Decides* that the total assessment for 2012 under the Special Account shall amount to 24,885,850 dollars, being half of the estimated appropriation approved for the biennium 2012–2013;

14. *Also decides* to apportion the amount of 12,442,925 dollars gross (11,831,275 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012;

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[54] A/66/537 and Corr.1.

[55] A/66/605.

[56] A/66/600 and A/66/7/Add.22.

[57] A/66/600.

15. *Further decides* to apportion the amount of 12,442,925 dollars gross (11,831,275 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,223,300 dollars approved for the Mechanism for 2012.

Annex

Financing for the biennium 2012–2013 of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

	Gross	*Net*
	(United States dollars)	
Estimated appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	55 051 400	51 198 800
Revised estimates: effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation	(1 258 100)	(20 500)
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	—	—
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	(4 021 600)	(3 853 200)
Estimated initial appropriation for the biennium 2012–2013	49 771 700	47 325 100
Total assessment for 2012	**24 885 850**	**23 662 550**
Of which:		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2012	12 442 925	11 831 275
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2012	12 442 925	11 831 275

RESOLUTION 66/241

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/632, para. 6)

66/241. Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei[58] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[59]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) of 27 June 2011, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei for a period of six months,

Recalling also its resolution 65/257 B of 30 June 2011, in which it authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan in entering into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011 in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,[60]

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolution of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010 and 65/289 of 30 June 2011, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

4. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

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[58] A/66/526.

[59] A/66/576.

[60] S/2005/78, annex.

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[59] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269 and 65/289;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

9. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Force for the purpose of accounting for the income received and expenditure incurred in respect of the Force;

10. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei the amount of 175,500,000 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 for the maintenance of the Force;

Financing of the appropriation

11. *Also decides* to apply to the Special Account the total amount of 67,013,400 dollars from the amount of 482,460,550 dollars previously apportioned under the terms of its resolution 65/257 B for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

12. *Further decides* to apply to the Special Account the amount of 1,363,800 dollars, representing the respective share of Member States in the Tax Equalization Fund of the balance of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Force and already set off against the apportionment among Member States under the terms of resolution 65/257 B and in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955;

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 18,849,503 dollars for the period from 1 July to 27 December 2011, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in resolution 64/248;

14. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 89,637,097 dollars for the period from 28 December 2011 to 30 June 2012, at a monthly rate of 14,625,000 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in resolution 64/248, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

15. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

17. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

18. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei".

RESOLUTION 66/242

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/633, para. 6)

66/242. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire[61] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[62]

Recalling Security Council resolution 2000 (2011) of 27 July 2011, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 31 July 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 58/310 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 65/294 of 30 June 2011,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[62] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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[61] A/66/529.

[62] A/66/612.

Financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

2. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire the amount of 159,235,000 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 for the maintenance of the Operation, in addition to the amount of 517,850,700 dollars previously appropriated for the Operation for the same period under the terms of its resolution 65/294, inclusive of 486,726,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Operation, 26,374,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 4,750,100 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

3. *Also decides*, taking into account the amount of 517,850,700 dollars already apportioned for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 under the terms of its resolution 65/294, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 159,235,000 dollars for the same period, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

4. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 3 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 780,900 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Operation;

5. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire".

RESOLUTION 66/243

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/634, para. 6)

66/243. Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan[63] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[64]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1978 (2011) of 27 April 2011, by which the Council announced its intent to establish a mission to succeed the United Nations Mission in the Sudan,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1996 (2011) of 8 July 2011, by which the Council established as of 9 July 2011 the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for an initial period of one year with the intention to renew for further periods as might be required,

Recalling further its resolution 65/257 B of 30 June 2011, in which it authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan in entering into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011 in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,[65] noted the intention of the Security Council, as stated in its resolution 1978 (2011), to establish a successor mission to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and also authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for the Mission in entering into commitments for a successor mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Mission in South Sudan with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolution of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010 and 65/289 of 30 June 2011, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

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[63] A/66/532.

[64] A/66/592.

[65] S/2005/78, annex.

4. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[64] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

7. *Notes* the application of the standardized funding model in the budget formulation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present analyses and lessons learned from its first application in the context of the performance report for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269 and 65/289;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Mission for the purpose of accounting for the income received and expenditure incurred in respect of the Mission;

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan the amount of 722,129,600 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 for the maintenance of the Mission;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Also decides* to apply to the Special Account the total amount of 277,915,150 dollars from the amount of 482,460,550 dollars previously apportioned under the terms of its resolution 65/257 B for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

13. *Further decides* to apply to the Special Account the amount of 8,874,300 dollars, representing the respective share of Member States in the Tax Equalization Fund of the balance of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and already set off against the apportionment among Member States under the terms of resolution 65/257 B and in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955;

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 444,214,450 dollars for the period from 9 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in resolution 64/248;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,202,520 dollars, representing the balance of the estimated staff assessment income of 10,076,820 dollars approved for the Mission;

16. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan".

RESOLUTION 66/244

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/635, para. 6)

66/244. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan[66] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[67]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1997 (2011) of 11 July 2011, by which the Council decided to withdraw the

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[66] A/66/519.

[67] A/66/575.

United Nations Mission in the Sudan effective 11 July 2011 and called upon the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian Mission personnel, other than those required for the liquidation of the Mission, by 31 August 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 59/292 of 21 April 2005 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 65/257 B of 30 June 2011, in which the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for the Mission in entering into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011 in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,[68] noted the intention of the Council, as stated in its resolution 1978 (2011), to establish a successor mission to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and also authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for the Mission in entering into commitments for a successor mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[67] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan as at 19 December 2011, including the contributions outstanding, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only fifty-five Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the administration of the termination indemnity in the context of the performance report for the Mission;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

5. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation of 482,460,550 United States dollars approved for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 under the terms of its resolution 65/257 B by the amount of 344,928,550 dollars, to 137,532,000 dollars for the withdrawal and administrative liquidation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012;

Financing of the appropriation

6. *Also decides* to apply to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan the total amount of 137,532,000 dollars from the amount of 482,460,550 dollars previously apportioned under the terms of its resolution 65/257 B for the Mission, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

7. *Further decides* to reduce by 10,238,100 dollars the amount of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the maintenance of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 under the terms of its resolution 65/257 B from 13,715,800 dollars to 3,477,700 dollars;

8. *Takes note* of the remaining balance of the estimated staff assessment income in the amount of 10,238,100 dollars;

9. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan".

RESOLUTIONS 66/245 A and B

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/636, para. 7)

66/245. Programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011

A

FINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010–2011

The General Assembly

1. *Takes note* of the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011,[69] and endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[70]

2. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2010–2011:

(*a*) The amount of 5,367,234,700 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolution 65/260 A of 24 December 2010 shall be increased by 49,199,000 dollars, as follows:

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[68] S/2005/78, annex.

[69] A/66/578 and Corr.1.

[70] A/66/611.

Section		Amount approved in resolution 65/260 A	Increase/ (decrease)	Final appropriations
		(United States dollars)		
	Part I. *Overall policymaking, direction and coordination*			
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	101 770 300	6 280 500	108 050 800
2.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	672 835 300	16 409 200	689 244 500
	Total, part I	**774 605 600**	**22 689 700**	**797 295 300**
	Part II. *Political affairs*			
3.	Political affairs	1 313 276 700	(3 814 800)	1 309 461 900
4.	Disarmament	22 134 800	393 400	22 528 200
5.	Peacekeeping operations	112 903 800	(3 911 500)	108 992 300
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	8 023 000	634 100	8 657 100
	Total, part II	**1 456 338 300**	**(6 698 800)**	**1 449 639 500**
	Part III. *International justice and law*			
7.	International Court of Justice	46 605 800	(30 900)	46 574 900
8.	Legal affairs	45 396 500	978 900	46 375 400
	Total, part III	**92 002 300**	**948 000**	**92 950 300**
	Part IV. *International cooperation for development*			
9.	Economic and social affairs	159 110 900	(684 100)	158 426 800
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	7 406 100	(121 800)	7 284 300
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	12 641 000	(2 461 900)	10 179 100
12.	Trade and development	136 629 800	10 840 900	147 470 700
13.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	31 793 300	4 464 200	36 257 500
14.	Environment	14 211 300	673 600	14 884 900
15.	Human settlements	20 564 700	1 701 000	22 265 700
16.	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	39 191 100	3 674 300	42 865 400
37.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	6 957 100	(479 100)	6 478 000
	Total, part IV	**428 505 300**	**17 607 100**	**446 112 400**
	Part V. *Regional cooperation for development*			
17.	Economic and social development in Africa	123 662 500	(11 306 600)	112 355 900
18.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	98 326 800	2 320 400	100 647 200
19.	Economic development in Europe	65 547 100	6 427 100	71 974 200
20.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	110 129 900	7 991 800	118 121 700
21.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	63 298 400	1 788 300	65 086 700
22.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	52 246 200	(2 615 300)	49 630 900
	Total, part V	**513 210 900**	**4 605 700**	**517 816 600**

Section		*Amount approved in resolution 65/260 A*	*Increase (decrease)*	*Final appropriations*
		(United States dollars)		
	Part VI. *Human rights and humanitarian affairs*			
23.	Human rights	141 191 400	8 084 400	149 275 800
24.	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	83 717 500	(18 100)	83 699 400
25.	Palestine refugees	43 712 400	4 697 100	48 409 500
26.	Humanitarian assistance	29 399 900	96 800	29 496 700
	Total, part VI	**298 021 200**	**12 860 200**	**310 881 400**
	Part VII. *Public information*			
27.	Public information	184 996 600	246 800	185 243 400
	Total, part VII	**184 996 600**	**246 800**	**185 243 400**
	Part VIII. *Common support services*			
28A.	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	26 126 100	375 500	26 501 600
28B.	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	38 552 500	(1 253 300)	37 299 200
28C.	Office of Human Resources Management	74 614 600	221 700	74 836 300
28D.	Office of Central Support Services	174 871 100	1 936 800	176 807 900
28E.	Administration, Geneva	126 778 700	15 013 900	141 792 600
28F.	Administration, Vienna	39 127 000	1 380 400	40 507 400
28G.	Administration, Nairobi	29 136 300	(200 700)	28 935 600
29.	Office of Information and Communications Technology	72 120 000	(684 800)	71 435 200
	Total, part VIII	**581 326 300**	**16 789 500**	**598 115 800**
	Part IX. *Internal oversight*			
30.	Internal oversight	38 925 000	(3 769 200)	35 155 800
	Total, part IX	**38 925 000**	**(3 769 200)**	**35 155 800**
	Part X. *Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*			
31.	Jointly financed administrative activities	11 993 400	(1 459 400)	10 534 000
32.	Special expenses	114 134 100	(3 935 600)	110 198 500
	Total, part X	**126 127 500**	**(5 395 000)**	**120 732 500**
	Part XI. *Capital expenditures*			
33.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	60 326 800	480 200	60 807 000
	Total, part XI	**60 326 800**	**480 200**	**60 807 000**
	Part XII. *Safety and security*			
34.	Safety and security	238 447 700	(6 892 900)	231 554 800
	Total, part XII	**238 447 700**	**(6 892 900)**	**231 554 800**

Section		Amount approved in resolution 65/260 A	Increase (decrease)	Final appropriations
		(United States dollars)		
	Part XIII. *Development Account*			
35.	Development Account	23 651 300	—	23 651 300
	Total, part XIII	**23 651 300**	**—**	**23 651 300**
	Part XIV. *Staff assessment*			
36.	Staff assessment	550 749 900	(4 272 300)	546 477 600
	Total, part XIV	**550 749 900**	**(4 272 300)**	**546 477 600**
	Grand total	**5 367 234 700**	**49 199 000**	**5 416 433 700**

(*b*) The Secretary-General shall be authorized to transfer credits between sections of the budget, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(*c*) In addition to the appropriations approved under subparagraph (*a*) above, an amount of 75,000 dollars shall be appropriated for each year of the biennium 2010–2011 from the accumulated income of the Library Endowment Fund for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment and for such other expenses of the Library at the Palais des Nations in Geneva as are in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment.

B

FINAL INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010–2011

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 2010–2011:

(*a*) The estimates of income of 592,971,800 United States dollars approved by it in its resolution 65/260 B of 24 December 2010 shall be increased by 8,308,000 dollars, as follows:

Income section		Amount approved in resolution 65/260 B	Increase (decrease)	Final estimates
		(United States dollars)		
1.	Income from staff assessment	555 041 000	(5 617 400)	549 423 600
	Total, income section 1	**555 041 000**	**(5 617 400)**	**549 423 600**
2.	General income	40 487 800	10 210 500	50 698 300
3.	Services to the public	(2 557 000)	3 714 900	1 157 900
	Total, income sections 2 and 3	**37 930 800**	**13 925 400**	**51 856 200**
	Grand total	**592 971 800**	**8 308 000**	**601 279 800**

(*b*) The income from staff assessment shall be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955;

(*c*) Direct expenses of the United Nations Postal Administration, services to visitors, catering and related services, garage operations, television services and the sale of publications not provided for under the budget appropriations shall be charged against the income derived from those activities.

RESOLUTION 66/246

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/637, para. 44)

66/246. Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 64/243 of 24 December 2009 and 64/260 of 29 March 2010,

Reaffirming its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 45/248 B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 58/269 and 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/276, section XI, of 23 December 2004, 61/263 of 4 April 2007, 62/236 of 22 December 2007, 63/262 and 63/266 of 24 December 2008, 64/243, 64/260, and 65/262 of 24 December 2010,

Reaffirming also the respective mandates of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the consideration of the proposed programme budget,

Reaffirming further the role of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of posts and financial resources, as well as of human resources policies,

Recognizing that late payments of assessed contributions, bearing in mind the special situation of certain countries, adversely affect the financial situation of the Organization,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013,[71] the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 37, Staff assessment, related to the strengthening of the Office of the Director General, United Nations Office at Nairobi,[72] the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the biennium 2012–2013,[73] the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account,[74] the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,[75] the report of the Board of Auditors on the progress in the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards,[76] the report of the Secretary-General on enterprise information and communications technology initiatives for the United Nations Secretariat,[77] the third progress report of the Secretary-General on the Umoja enterprise resource planning project,[78] the report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[79] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[80]

Having also considered chapter II, section A, of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-first session[81] and the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013,[82]

Having further considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the organizational framework of the public information function of the Secretariat[83] and the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the efficiency of the implementation of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[84]

Having considered the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of management and administration in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime",[85] "Policies and procedures for the administration of trust funds in the United Nations system organizations"[86] and "Preparedness of United Nations system organizations for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards"[87] and the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United

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[71] A/66/6 (Introduction), (Sects. 1 and 2), (Sect. 3) and Corr.1, (Sects. 4–7), (Sect. 8) and Corr.1, (Sects. 9–12), (Sect. 13) and Add.1, (Sects. 14 and 15), (Sect. 16) and Corr.1, (Sects. 17–19), (Sect. 20) and Corr.1, (Sects. 21–23), (Sect. 24) and Corr.1, (Sect. 25), (Sect. 26) and Corr.1, (Sect. 27), (Sect. 28) and Corr.1, (Sect. 29), (Sect. 29A) and Corr.1, (Sect. 29B–E), (Sect. 29F) and Corr.1, (Sect. 29G) and (Sects. 30–37), and (Income sects. 1–3).

[72] A/66/393.

[73] A/66/85.

[74] A/66/84.

[75] A/66/379.

[76] See A/66/151.

[77] A/66/94.

[78] A/66/381.

[79] A/66/570.

[80] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (A/66/7 and Corr.1); A/66/7/Add.1, 7 and 18; and A/66/536.

[81] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/66/16).

[82] A/66/82.

[83] A/66/180.

[84] A/66/74.

[85] See A/66/315.

[86] See A/66/348.

[87] See A/66/308.

Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[88]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

2. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

3. *Further reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

4. *Reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[89]

5. *Also reaffirms* the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;[90]

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in chapter II, section A, of its report;[91]

7. *Also endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[92] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

Policy/cross-cutting issues

8. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

9. *Also reaffirms* that no changes to the budget methodology, to established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, in accordance with established budgetary procedures;

10. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the consistent and timely information necessary to enable Member States to make well-informed decisions;

12. *Stresses* that all Member States should fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions;

Results-based budgeting

13. *Also stresses* that results-based budgeting and results-based management are mutually supportive management tools and that improved implementation of results-based budgeting enhances both management and accountability in the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

14. *Reaffirms* paragraph 28 of resolution 55/231, and stresses the importance of adequate training to ensure the full implementation of results-based budgeting;

Human resources, vacancy rates and staffing

15. *Regrets* the delays in the recruitment of staff for the Umoja enterprise resource planning project, including of its Project Director, resulting from internal processes, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to fill all the approved posts, taking into account existing regulations and rules regarding recruitment in the Secretariat, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of resolution 64/243, and expresses serious concern about the lack of progress by the Secretary-General in developing a comprehensive succession plan for the Organization, including, inter alia, for the language services, and in this regard reiterates its requests for the Secretary-General to formulate a strategy on succession planning for all departments of the Secretariat and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Decides* not to approve any of the cuts in posts and non-post resources proposed by the Secretary-General in parts IV and V of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

18. *Decides* that the staffing table for the biennium 2012–2013 shall be as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

19. *Reaffirms* that the vacancy rate is a tool for budgetary calculations and should not be used to achieve budgetary savings;

20. *Decides* that a vacancy rate of 4.7 per cent for General Service staff shall be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

Training

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, using the resources allocated for training in the present resolution, to increase training opportunities for staff throughout the Secretariat,

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[88] A/66/315/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/66/348/Add.1 and A/66/308/Add.1.

[89] ST/SGB/2000/8.

[90] ST/SGB/2003/7 and Amend.1.

including for duty stations and regional commissions, and in this context stresses that equal training opportunities should be available for all staff, in accordance with their functions and categories;

22. *Stresses* that the largest possible share of resources provided for training purposes should be directed towards the preparation and delivery of training and that ancillary costs, including associated travel, should be minimized;

23. *Recalls* paragraph 112 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and requests the Secretary-General to assess how training programmes and objectives contribute to mandate implementation and organizational goals;

Conference services and publications

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring that there is no discriminatory treatment among the principal organs of the United Nations and the Main Committees and subsidiary bodies and that they are provided with adequate and quality conference servicing and support;

Non-post resources

25. *Decides* to reduce non-post resources by 17 million United States dollars, excluding parts IV and V of the proposed budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

Consultants and contractual services

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that, in future programme budget proposals, requests for consultants and experts are clearly and separately identified in the programme narratives;

Recosting

27. *Decides* to defer consideration of post-related recosting for inflation and exchange rate projections to the first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2012–2013, in order to ensure appropriation of post-related costs in line with actual expenditure experience;

Extrabudgetary resources

28. *Stresses* that all extrabudgetary posts must be administered and managed with the same rigour as regular budget posts;

29. *Also stresses* that the use of extrabudgetary resources shall be consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to provide information on the financial and human resource implications of the use of extrabudgetary resources in the Organization in his next proposed programme budget;

Part I
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

Section 1
Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

30. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened accountability in the Organization and of ensuring greater accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States, inter alia, for the effective and efficient implementation of legislative mandates and the use of human and financial resources;

31. *Recalls* paragraph I.6 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and decides to establish one post at the D-1 level to head the Rule of Law Unit and to retain the P-5 post;

Office of the President of the General Assembly

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures;

Office of the Director General, United Nations Office at Nairobi

33. *Takes note* of paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[92] and decides to establish one P-4 and two Local level posts in the Office of the Director General, United Nations Office at Nairobi;

Section 2
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

34. *Decides* to decrease the non-post resources allocated to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management by 10 million dollars;

35. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to improve the on-time submission of documents and to institute measures to hold author departments accountable for the late submission of documents;

36. *Recalls* paragraph I.58 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] decides not to implement the proposals of the Secretary-General on summary records, and also decides to allocate 10 million dollars for the purpose of summary records;

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[91] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (A/66/7 and Corr.1).

[92] A/66/7/Add.7.

37. *Also recalls* paragraph I.72 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to take all the necessary measures to maximize the use of workload-sharing among duty stations, in respect of translation services, without compromising the quality of the services;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all duty stations are given equal treatment in respect of the application of modern technologies;

39. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of ensuring the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

Part II
Political affairs

Section 3
Political affairs

40. *Takes note* of paragraph II.7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and decides not to abolish one P-4 post and one General Service (Other level) post, under subprogramme 4 (Decolonization);

Peacebuilding Support Office

41. *Recalls* paragraph II.30 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to establish two P-4 posts for the Peacebuilding Support Office;

Office of the Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

42. *Takes note* of paragraph II.36 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to increase by 306,000 dollars the level of non-post resources of the Office of the Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

Section 4
Disarmament

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament with the necessary resources to discharge their mandates;

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

44. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make further concrete efforts to ensure proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, taking into account their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping;

Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

45. *Notes* the review of the organizational structure of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programme, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the consolidation of the organizational structure will enhance effectiveness and efficiency without undermining the implementation by the Office of its mandate;

Part III
International justice and law

Section 7
International Court of Justice

46. *Emphasizes* the importance of proceeding expeditiously with the renovation of the Great Hall of Justice in the Peace Palace at The Hague;

Section 8
Legal affairs

47. *Recalls* paragraph III.25 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] notes that publications are a means for the Organization to implement its mandates, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to enhance the use of appropriate technology, to focus on areas of interest to Member States and to explore options for cost recovery as appropriate;

48. *Decides* to increase non-post resources by 274,200 dollars in order to provide sufficient funding for servicing the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for fourteen weeks and to retain the rotation scheme between Vienna and New York;

49. *Takes note* of paragraph III.23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to approve 2,451,800 dollars for travel and related costs for representatives and staff of the International Law Commission;

Part IV
International cooperation for development

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize adequate resources from all sources to support the mandates related to sections 10 and 11 of the programme budget during the biennium 2012–2013;

51. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 57/7 of 4 November 2002 and 57/300 of 20 December 2002, by which it established the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, by which it established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,

Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

52. *Recalls* paragraph IV.29 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] strongly reaffirms the relevant provisions of its resolutions 62/236, 63/260 of 24 December 2008, 64/243, and 66/8 of 11 November 2011 in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General to implement the provisions pertaining to the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in those resolutions accordingly, in full and without delay;

Section 11
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

53. *Also recalls* that the development of Africa is an established priority of the United Nations, and reaffirms its commitment to address the special needs of Africa;

54. *Further recalls* its resolution 57/300 and other resolutions calling for the strengthening of mechanisms to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[93]

Section 12
Trade and development

55. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to broaden the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration in Africa by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure, including the strengthening of statistical capacity;

Section 16
International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

56. *Recalls* paragraph 83 of resolution 64/243, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the West Africa Coast Initiative in order to support the implementation of a regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa;

57. *Also recalls* paragraph 84 of resolution 64/243, profoundly regrets the delays experienced by the Secretary-General in opening a programme office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Barbados to collaborate with the Caribbean Community in such areas as corruption, drug trafficking, international judicial cooperation and the promotion of firearms control, and requests the Secretary-General to urgently open the office;

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

58. *Emphasizes* the important contribution that regional commissions are making towards the implementation of the development agenda and other mandates given to them arising from the outcome of the Millennium Summit, the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the resource requirements of the commissions are allocated in such a way as to enable them to fully implement their mandates and contribute to the implementation of development priorities and mandates of the Organization;

Section 18
Economic and social development in Africa

60. *Decides* to increase the grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to 2.6 million dollars per biennium;

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

61. *Takes note* of paragraphs V.84 and V.85 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and decides to establish one post at the D-1 level for the Chief of the Division for Women, under subprogramme 6; one post at the D-1 level for the Chief of the Emerging Trends and Conflict-related Issues Division, under subprogramme 7; and one P-5 post for the Chief of the Governance, Instability and Development Section, under subprogramme 7;

Part VI
Human rights and humanitarian affairs

Section 24
Human rights

62. *Decides* to reclassify one P-5 post to the D-1 level, under subprogramme 4, and requests the Secretary-General to designate capacity to support the universal periodic review and to report thereon in the context of the performance report;

63. *Stresses* the importance of having detailed and comprehensive information on the utilization of extrabudgetary resources for the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

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[93] A/57/304, annex.

Section 25
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

64. *Recalls* paragraph VI.32 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and in this regard stresses the importance of sharing lessons learned and best practices with other parts of the Organization;

Section 26
Palestine refugees

65. *Reaffirms* its resolution 3331B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, stating that expenses for salaries of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate;

66. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and expresses concern about the significant reduction in the total resources for the Agency over the past ten years while its overall workload and responsibilities have continued to increase;

Part VII
Public information

Section 28
Public information

67. *Stresses* the importance of publishing United Nations information materials and translating important documents into languages other than United Nations official languages, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all the corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

68. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to expand the scope of press releases in addition to the existing languages in order to widen the United Nations message, assuring their comprehensiveness and up-to-date nature and ensuring their accuracy;

69. *Recalls* paragraph VII.16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] commends the Secretary-General on his outreach efforts to the general public, particularly youth, through enhanced use of new media technologies, and stresses that more traditional means of communication, such as radio and print media, remain an important part of the efforts to ensure that the message of the Organization is effectively promoted, particularly in developing countries;

70. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote public awareness of and to mobilize support for the work of the United Nations at the local level through all possible means of communications, including publications, the broadcasting of news and the network of United Nations information centres, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations;

71. *Recognizes* the vital role of the United Nations information centres in promoting awareness about the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to mobilize resources for the effective functioning of United Nations information centres in developing countries;

72. *Welcomes* the initiatives to modernize the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, including through the acquisition of technical solutions for upgrading and customizing current information management systems and digitizing United Nations parliamentary documents dating from 1946, as measures that serve to enhance and modernize the storage and retrieval of United Nations documents and to preserve the institutional memory of the Organization;

73. *Decides* to convert the general temporary assistance position in the Russian News Centre to an established post at the P-3 level, with a view to ensuring the same level of support in this language as in the other official languages of the United Nations;

74. *Also decides* to reclassify one P 2 post to the P-3 level in the Chinese Unit and one P-3 post to P-4 level as head of the Kiswahili Unit of United Nations Radio;

75. *Further decides* to establish two P-3 posts, two P-2 posts and one General Service (Other level) post in the Kiswahili Unit of United Nations Radio and one P-3 post and two P-2 posts in the Portuguese Unit of United Nations Radio;

76. *Stresses* the importance of an open, transparent and all-inclusive United Nations, decides to approve the live webcasting, and subsequent web storage, of all the formal meetings of its six Main Committees, and in this regard approves 835,500 dollars to cover all related costs;

77. *Requests* the Secretary-General to clearly identify the level of resources related to public information activities for special conferences in future budget presentations under this section;

Part VIII
Common support services

Section 29A
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management

Umoja enterprise resource planning project

78. *Expresses serious concern* about the potential escalation of costs of the Umoja enterprise resource planning

project, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its implementation without further delay;

79. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure by all means that the project costs are brought back within the approved budget;

80. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make every effort to avoid budget increases through sound project management practices and to ensure that the Umoja project is completed within the budget as approved in its resolution 64/243;

81. *Underlines* that the overall qualitative and quantitative benefits related to the Umoja project, which were identified in the first and second progress reports,[94] remain valid, regrets the delay in the realization of those benefits, and requests the Secretary-General to make all efforts to maximize them;

82. *Stresses* the centrality of the leadership and oversight of the Secretary-General and of senior management, as well as of the commitment of all departments to completing the Umoja project, in order to avoid a recurrence of the mistakes and delays in its implementation to date and thereby their negative implications for the Organization;

83. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full accountability for the delays, the lack of responsiveness of management to the needs of the Umoja project and other factors that have contributed to delays in its implementation and the projected budget overrun, and to include this information in his fourth annual progress report;

84. *Expresses serious concern* about the governance crisis in the Umoja project, and reaffirms its decision to designate the Under-Secretary-General for Management as the Chair of the Steering Committee for the project;

85. *Stresses* the need for a simple and operationally effective information and communications technology governance structure with clear lines of authority and accountability;

86. *Emphasizes* that the Umoja enterprise resource planning project should be viewed primarily as a business project driven by business process demands;

87. *Decides* that the Umoja Project Director will report solely and directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Management and that the Umoja project team and administration of the project budget will be placed within the Department of Management;

88. *Reiterates* that successful implementation of the Umoja project requires the full support and commitment of senior management, as well as close and continuous engagement with key stakeholders, and calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure this through his performance management and accountability mechanism;

89. *Stresses* the supportive role of the Office of Information and Communications Technology, and requests in this regard that the Chief Information Technology Officer provide full cooperation and support to the Project Director;

90. *Expresses its concern* that no specific information has been shared with Member States concerning the related costs and activities of the Umoja project, and requests the Secretary-General to include such information in his next progress report and to make every effort to fully implement such activities within the approved budget level of each department;

91. *Approves* commitment authority for the Umoja project for one year at maintenance level, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session a revised comprehensive proposal for funding the project during the biennium 2012–2013;

92. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update Member States through regular informal briefings to the Fifth Committee at the first and second parts of the resumed sessions of the General Assembly, as well as by submitting annual progress reports, on all aspects of the implementation of the Umoja project, including its current status, significant activities carried out since the previous report and risk analysis information outlining any risks identified, actions to be taken, status and trends, and to update the relevant information on the Umoja project website on a regular basis;

93. *Requests* the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to request the Board of Auditors to conduct a comprehensive audit of the implementation of the Umoja project and to report annually to the General Assembly starting at the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

Section 29B
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

94. *Recalls* paragraph VIII.33 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] notes the measures undertaken by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts to improve the efficiency of its services, and urges the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts and to report thereon in the context of his next budget submission;

95. *Takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors[76] and the Joint Inspection Unit[87] on progress in the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and on preparedness of United Nations system organizations for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, respectively;

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[94] A/64/380 and A/65/389.

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards at the United Nations is completed no later than 2014, and reaffirms that the enterprise resource planning system will serve as the backbone for implementation by the United Nations of the Standards;

97. *Stresses* the importance of benefiting from the experience and guidance of the early implementers and of ensuring that the United Nations is adequately prepared for its transition to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

98. *Requests* the Secretary-General to exercise strict oversight over the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards project to ensure prudent stewardship of project resources and to establish clear lines of reporting and effective mechanisms for the rapid resolution of issues on a day-to-day basis;

99. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the General Assembly is kept informed, on an annual basis, of the progress in implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by 2014, including milestones and deliverables, outstanding activities and utilization of resources, as well as to ensure full realization of the benefits associated with the implementation of the Standards;

Section 29C
Office of Human Resources Management

100. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.40 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and decides to increase by 50 per cent the non-post resources available for outreach, under component 2, strategic planning and staffing;

Section 29H
Office of Information and Communications Technology

101. *Underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in meeting the growing demands of the Organization as it becomes increasingly reliant on its information and communications technology infrastructure;

102. *Also underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in strengthening oversight and accountability and in increasing the availability of accurate and timely information to support decision-making;

103. *Stresses* the need for strengthened accountability and clearer lines of authority to ensure a more efficient and effective Office of Information and Communications Technology;

104. *Takes note* of paragraph 122 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] decides in this regard to place the Office of Information and Communications Technology under the Department of Management, also decides that the Chief Information Technology Officer will report accordingly to the Head of the Department of Management, and further decides to place the budget of the Office within the budget of the Department of Management;

105. *Also takes note* of paragraphs 89, 99, 107, 117 and 118 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[95] requests the Secretary-General to implement initiative 1, Improve enterprise information and communications technology management, and initiative 4, Create a resilient information and communications technology infrastructure, decides not to approve additional funding for the implementation of these initiatives, and also decides not to approve initiative 2, Leverage knowledge through information and communications technology, and initiative 3, Enhance information and communications technology service delivery;

106. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit any future funding proposals for major information and communications technology projects for consideration by the General Assembly only after the full implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project;

107. *Requests* the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to request the Board of Auditors to audit and evaluate the handling of information and communications technology affairs in the Secretariat, including the Office of Information and Communications Technology, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

Part IX
Internal oversight

Section 31
Internal oversight

108. *Takes note* of paragraph IX.6 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and decides to establish the post of Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

109. *Reaffirms* paragraph 130 of its resolution 64/243, and takes note of paragraph IX.12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

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[95] A/66/7/Add.1.

Part X
Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses

Section 32
Jointly financed administrative activities

Joint Inspection Unit

110. *Recalls* paragraph X.16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[91] and authorizes an amount of 100,000 dollars for the Joint Inspection Unit for requirements related to consultants, while urging the Unit to make greater use of its secretariat and the available expertise within the United Nations common system in providing such specialized advice and technical services to the inspectors;

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including the International Public Sector Accounting Standards project

111. *Also recalls* paragraph X.24 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to consult all the participating organizations on consolidating the secretariat of the Board at United Nations Headquarters in New York and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

Part XI
Capital expenditures

Section 34
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

112. *Decides* to reduce the overall requirements for construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance by 6.9 million dollars, and requests the Secretary-General to prioritize between the projects proposed in order to ensure the security of staff, delegates and other personnel at all duty stations;

Part XII
Safety and security

Section 35
Safety and security

113. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the appropriateness of the use of private security personnel, particularly in situations in which they are the only option available to provide safety and security for staff, and also requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

Part XIII
Development Account

Section 36
Development Account

114. *Decides* to appropriate an additional 6 million dollars for the Development Account;

Limited budgetary discretion

115. *Recalls* section III of resolution 60/283, and decides to extend its provisions until 30 April 2012, pending a decision at the first part of the resumed sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Annex

Staffing table for the biennium 2012–2013

Category	*Number of posts*
Professional and above	
Deputy Secretary-General	1
Under-Secretary-General	33
Assistant Secretary-General	29
D-2	105
D-1	287
P-5	845
P-4/3	2 787
P-2/1	543
Subtotal	**4 630**
General Service	
Principal level	281
Other level	2 733
Subtotal	**3 014**
Other	
Security Service	320
Local level	2 024
Field Service	129
National Officer	79
Trades and Crafts	140
Subtotal	**2 692**
Total	**10 336**

RESOLUTION 66/247

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/637, para. 44)

66/247. Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

The General Assembly,

I

Revised estimates under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 30, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 relating to the organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 30, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 relating to the organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework[96] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[97]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[96]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[97] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of paragraphs 32 (*a*) and (*c*) of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. *Also takes note* of the organizational resilience management system approach, on the understanding that the follow-up report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session will present a complete picture of the comprehensive emergency management framework, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 11 of section II of its resolution 64/260 of 29 March 2010;

5. *Regrets* the lack of coordination in the Secretariat which led to delays in submitting the proposal requested in paragraph 11 of resolution 64/260;

6. *Decides* not to use the contingency fund to finance the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to strictly observe its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 regarding the use of the contingency fund;

7. *Decides* to approve the extension of the lease of the secondary data centre in Piscataway, New Jersey, United States of America, for thirty months beyond 31 December 2011 and the procurement of software to maintain emergency preparedness plans and the staff accounting system, and further decides not to approve additional resources in this regard;

II

Transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards[98] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[99]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[98]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[99]

3. *Authorizes* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to apply mutatis mutandis the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[100] to the accounting processes and financial reporting of its voluntary funds, for the sole purpose of the timely implementation by the Office of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

III

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011[101] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[102]

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[96] A/66/516.

[97] A/66/7/Add.10.

[98] See A/66/352.

[99] A/66/376.

[100] ST/SGB/2003/7 and Amend.1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[101]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[102]

IV

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work of the Institute for 2012–2013

Recalling section IV of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work of the Institute for 2012–2013[103] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[104]

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[103]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[104]

3. *Approves* the request for a subvention to the Institute of 577,800 United States dollars (before recosting) for the biennium 2012–2013 from the regular budget of the United Nations, on the understanding that no additional provision would be required under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

V

Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and transitional measures concerning the financial reporting of the Fund under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Recalling its resolutions 55/224 of 23 December 2000, 57/286 of 20 December 2002, 59/269 of 23 December 2004, 61/240 of 22 December 2006, 62/241 of 22 December 2007 and 63/252 of 24 December 2008, section II of its resolution 64/245 of 24 December 2009 and its resolution 65/249 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and transitional measures concerning the financial reporting of the Fund under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards,[105] the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Board[106] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[107]

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[107] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure, through consultations with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, that posts in the Fund are announced as widely as possible, inter alia on the Inspira website, as appropriate;

3. *Approves* the revised estimate of 154,545,700 dollars for the biennium 2010–2011 for the administration of the Fund;

4. *Also approves* expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 173,412,600 dollars net for the biennium 2012–2013;

5. *Further approves* the amount of 20,688,300 dollars as the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the Fund for the biennium 2012–2013, of which 13,240,500 dollars represents the share of the regular budget and the balance of 7,447,800 dollars represents the share of the United Nations funds and programmes;

6. *Approves* the reduction of 1,035,600 dollars in the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

7. *Authorizes* the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for the biennium 2012–2013 by an amount not to exceed 200,000 dollars;

8. *Authorizes* the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to continue to apply mutatis mutandis the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[100] to its accounting processes and financial reporting in a manner that allows the

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[101] A/66/510.

[102] A/66/7/Add.9.

[103] A/66/170.

[104] A/66/7/Add.8.

[105] A/66/266 and Corr.1.

[106] A/C.5/66/2.

[107] A/66/7/Add.2.

Fund to be compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by 1 January 2012;

9. *Recalls* its resolution 65/249;

VI

International Trade Centre

Having considered the programme budget proposals for the International Trade Centre for the biennium 2012–2013[108] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[109]

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[109] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Takes note* of paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides that the temporary position of Associate Graphic Designer (P-2) shall continue to be funded as general temporary assistance;

3. *Decides* to approve resources in the amount of 41,337,700 dollars (the United Nations share equivalent to 38,072,000 Swiss francs at the exchange rate of 0.921 Swiss francs to 1 dollar) proposed for the biennium 2012–2013 under section 13, International Trade Centre, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

VII

Construction of additional office facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa and strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Recalling its resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002, section IV of its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003, sections IX and X of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section I of its resolution 63/263 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009 and section III of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi,[110] on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa[111] and on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva,[112] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[113]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[110,111,112]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[113] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction projects in implementing future construction projects, in particular to draw from the experience and the know-how acquired from large capital projects, including the capital master plan;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that major capital expenditure projects are not implemented simultaneously in order to prevent the need to finance them at the same time;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 15 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and expresses concern that an estimated expenditure of 734,000 dollars from the contingency provision has arisen, owing to an error by the architecture and construction management consultant, which has resulted in a substantial depletion of the budgeted contingency, thereby increasing the risk to the Economic Commission for Africa project;

6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General that the renovation phase of the strategic heritage plan not start before the General Assembly has taken a decision on this matter and the capital master plan has been completed;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 a detailed implementation plan and cost analysis based on the medium-term option, with fully developed explanations of the composition and calculation of the costs, as well as the basis for assumptions that underpin the estimates and relevant supporting data, and a prioritized list of tasks highlighting essential items that need renovation for health and safety reasons, without prejudice to any decisions to be made by the General Assembly on this matter;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, as a potential complement to assessed contributions by Member States for the realization of the strategic heritage plan, options for voluntary funding sources, public or private, in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations;

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[108] A/66/6 (Sect. 13) and Add.1.

[109] A/66/7/Add.5.

[110] A/66/336.

[111] A/66/351.

[112] A/66/279.

[113] A/66/7/Add.3.

9. *Decides* to approve general temporary assistance in the amount of 810,600 dollars under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 to provide for one P-4 Architect and one P-4 Engineer, as well as the additional requirement of 2.8 million dollars for contractual services in relation to the development of the detailed project implementation and phasing plan under section 34, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance;

10. *Also decides* to approve an amount of 74,000 dollars under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

VIII

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions[114] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[115]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[114]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[115]

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council;

IX

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[116] and on the request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone,[117] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[118]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[116,117]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[118] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reiterates* the need for greater transparency in the presentation of resources for travel and consultancies so that the General Assembly can make well-informed decisions regarding the resource requirements for special political missions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to ensure that support sought in the form of consultancies is not already available in-house or in situ;

5. *Regrets* the late introduction of the reports on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council;

6. *Takes note* of paragraphs 57, 64, 82, 109, 112, 115, 138, 162 and 245 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[119]

7. *Decides* to reduce the 2012 budget for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic by 350,000 dollars;

8. *Also decides* to reduce the 2012 budget for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission by 250,000 dollars;

9. *Approves* the total amount of 583,383,800 dollars for the budgets of the twenty-nine special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council listed in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General;[120]

10. *Also approves* a charge totalling 583,383,800 dollars net against the provision for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

11. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 16 million dollars for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

12. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 9,066,400 dollars for the subvention for the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

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[114] A/66/586.

[115] A/66/7/Add.20.

[116] A/66/354 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and 4, Add.5 and Add.5/Corr.1 and Add.6.

[117] A/66/563.

[118] A/66/7/Add.12, 13 and 19.

[119] A/66/7/Add.12.

[120] A/66/354 and Corr.1.

X

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011

Having considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011[121] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[122]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 66/235 of 24 December 2011;

2. *Takes note* of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General;[121]

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[122]

XI

Financial implications of the administration of justice at the United Nations

Recalling its resolution 66/237 of 24 December 2011 on the administration of justice at the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to approve an additional amount of 7,078,700 dollars, at 2012–2013 rates, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013, reflecting an increase comprising 2,178,600 dollars under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, 557,600 dollars under section 8, Legal affairs, 402,600 dollars under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, 299,400 dollars under section 29A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, 689,200 dollars under section 29C, Office of Human Resources Management, 649,700 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, 868,200 dollars under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, and 695,000 dollars under section 29G, Administration, Nairobi, and an increase of 738,400 dollars under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

2. *Also decides* that the additional amount of 7,078,700 dollars would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2012–2013;

XII

Effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from changes in rates of exchange and inflation[123] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[124]

Takes note of the revised estimates arising from recosting due to changes in the rates of exchange and inflation;

XIII

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 13,762,500 dollars remains in the contingency fund;[125]

XIV

Joint Inspection Unit

Approves the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for the biennium 2012–2013 in the amount of 12,743,200 dollars;

XV

International Civil Service Commission

Also approves the gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for the biennium 2012–2013 in the amount of 17,546,300 dollars;

XVI

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Notes the gross budget for the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for the biennium 2012–2013 in the amount of 5,380,700 dollars;

XVII

Gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security

Approves the gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security for the biennium 2012–2013 in the amount of 244,536,400 dollars, broken down as follows:

(*a*) Field Security Operations: 215,032,200 dollars;

(*b*) Security and Safety Services at the United Nations Office at Vienna: 29,504,200 dollars.

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[121] A/66/394 and Corr.1.

[122] A/66/7/Add.4 and Corr.1.

[123] A/66/614.

[124] A/66/7/Add.22.

[125] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Fifth Committee*, 25th meeting (A/C.5/66/SR.25), and corrigendum.

RESOLUTIONS 66/248 A to C

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/637, para. 44)

66/248. Programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013

A

BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012–2013

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 2012–2013:

1. Appropriations totalling 5,152,299,600 United States dollars are hereby approved for the following purposes:

Section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
	Part I. *Overall policymaking, direction and coordination*	
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	105 133 800
2.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	616 654 500
	Subtotal	**721 788 300**
	Part II. *Political affairs*	
3.	Political affairs	1 193 700 800
4.	Disarmament	22 422 000
5.	Peacekeeping operations	109 725 100
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	8 001 400
	Subtotal	**1 333 849 300**
	Part III. *International justice and law*	
7.	International Court of Justice	47 766 400
8.	Legal affairs	45 388 700
	Subtotal	**93 155 100**
	Part IV. *International cooperation for development*	
9.	Economic and social affairs	148 979 300
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	7 264 900
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	12 587 700
12.	Trade and development	136 524 600
13.	International Trade Centre	41 337 700
14.	Environment	13 925 500
15.	Human settlements	20 631 500
16.	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	40 902 200
17.	UN-Women	14 482 300
	Subtotal	**436 635 700**
	Part V. *Regional cooperation for development*	
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	138 308 300
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	98 654 500
20.	Economic development in Europe	65 247 200
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	110 256 000

Section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	62 646 700
23.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	57 779 600
	Subtotal	**532 892 300**
	Part VI. *Human rights and humanitarian affairs*	
24.	Human rights	154 315 400
25.	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	95 507 100
26.	Palestine refugees	47 377 700
27.	Humanitarian assistance	29 374 000
	Subtotal	**326 574 200**
	Part VII. *Public information*	
28.	Public information	179 092 100
	Subtotal	**179 092 100**
	Part VIII. *Common support services*	
29.	Management and support services	600 210 000
	Subtotal	**600 210 000**
	Part IX. *Internal oversight*	
31.	Internal oversight	38 254 200
	Subtotal	**38 254 200**
	Part X. *Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*	
32.	Jointly financed administrative activities	10 762 400
33.	Special expenses	120 456 700
	Subtotal	**131 219 100**
	Part XI. *Capital expenditures*	
34.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	64 886 900
	Subtotal	**64 886 900**
	Part XII. *Safety and security*	
35.	Safety and security	213 412 400
	Subtotal	**213 412 400**
	Part XIII. *Development Account*	
36.	Development Account	29 243 200
	Subtotal	**29 243 200**
	Part XIV. *Staff assessment*	
37.	Staff assessment	451 086 800
	Subtotal	**451 086 800**
	Total	**5 152 299 600**

2. The Secretary-General shall be authorized to transfer credits between sections of the budget, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. In addition to the appropriations approved under paragraph 1 above, an amount of 75,000 dollars is appropriated for each year of the biennium 2012–2013 from the accumulated income of the Library Endowment Fund for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment and for such other expenses of the Library at the Palais des Nations in Geneva as are in accordance with the objects and provisions of the endowment.

B

INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012–2013

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 2012–2013:

1. Estimates of income other than assessments on Member States totalling 507,751,200 United States dollars are approved as follows:

Income section		*Amount (United States dollars)*
1.	Income from staff assessment	455 366 000
2.	General income	52 500 600
3.	Services to the public	(115 400)
	Total	**507 751 200**

2. The income from staff assessment shall be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955;

3. Direct expenses of the United Nations Postal Administration, services to visitors, the sale of statistical products, catering operations and related services, garage operations, television services and the sale of publications not provided for under the budget appropriations shall be charged against the income derived from those activities.

C

FINANCING OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2012

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the year 2012:

1. Budget appropriations consisting of 2,576,149,800 United States dollars, being half of the appropriation of 5,152,299,600 dollars approved for the biennium 2012–2013 by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of resolution A above, plus 49,199,000 dollars, being the net increase in revised appropriations for the biennium 2010–2011 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 66/245 A of 24 December 2011, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 3.1 and 3.2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[126] as follows:

(*a*) 40,118,000 dollars, consisting of 26,192,600 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium 2012–2013 under resolution B above, plus 13,925,400 dollars, being the increase in income other than staff assessment income for the biennium 2010–2011 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 66/245 B of 24 December 2011;

(*b*) 2,585,230,800 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 222,065,600 dollars, consisting of:

(*a*) 227,683,000 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the biennium 2012–2013 in resolution B above;

(*b*) Offset by 5,617,400 dollars, being the decrease in income from staff assessment for the biennium 2010–2011 approved by the Assembly in its resolution 66/245 B.

RESOLUTION 66/249

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/637, para. 44)

66/249. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2012–2013

The General Assembly

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[127] and the provisions of paragraph 3 below, to enter into commitments in the biennium 2012–2013 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to the biennium, provided

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[126] ST/SGB/2003/7 and Amend.1.

[127] Ibid.

that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

(*a*) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 8 million United States dollars in any one year of the biennium 2012–2013 as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(*b*) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by:

(i) The designation of ad hoc judges (Statute of the International Court of Justice, Article 31), not exceeding a total of 200,000 dollars;

(ii) The calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (Statute, Article 50) and the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), not exceeding a total of 50,000 dollars;

(iii) The maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (Statute, Article 13, paragraph 3), not exceeding a total of 40,000 dollars;

(iv) The payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges and travel and removal expenses and installation grants of members of the Court (Statute, Article 32, paragraph 7), not exceeding a total of 410,000 dollars;

(v) The work of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22), not exceeding a total of 25,000 dollars;

(*c*) Such commitments not exceeding a total of 1 million dollars in the biennium 2012–2013 as the Secretary-General certifies are required for security measures pursuant to section XI, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004;

2. *Resolves* that the Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments;

3. *Decides* that, for the biennium 2012–2013, if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding 10 million dollars in respect of the decision, that matter shall be brought to the General Assembly, or, if the Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.

RESOLUTION 66/250

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/637, para. 44)

66/250. Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2012–2013

The General Assembly

Resolves that:

1. The Working Capital Fund shall be established for the biennium 2012–2013 in the amount of 150 million United States dollars;

2. Member States shall make advances to the Working Capital Fund in accordance with the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Member States to the budget for the year 2012;

3. There shall be set off against this allocation of advances:

(*a*) Credits to Member States resulting from transfers made in 1959 and 1960 from the surplus account to the Working Capital Fund in an adjusted amount of 1,025,092 dollars;

(*b*) Cash advances paid by Member States to the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2010–2011 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/247 of 24 December 2009;

4. Should the credits and advances paid by any Member State to the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2010–2011 exceed the amount of that Member State's advance under the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the excess shall be set off against the amount of the contributions payable by the Member State in respect of the biennium 2012–2013;

5. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:

(*a*) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending the receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for that purpose;

(*b*) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments that may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, in particular resolution 66/249 of 24 December 2011 relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;

(*c*) Such sums as may be necessary to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities, which, together with net sums outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed 200,000 dollars; advances in excess of 200,000 dollars may be made with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(*d*) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, such sums as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the biennium in which payment is made; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each biennium, during the life of the related policies, to cover the charges applicable to each biennium;

(*e*) Such sums as may be necessary to enable the Tax Equalization Fund to meet current commitments pending the accumulation of credits; such advances shall be repaid as soon as credits are available in the Tax Equalization Fund;

6. Should the provision in paragraph 1 above prove inadequate to meet the purposes normally related to the Working Capital Fund, the Secretary-General is authorized to utilize, in the biennium 2012–2013, cash from special funds and accounts in his custody, under the conditions approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 1341 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, or the proceeds of loans authorized by the Assembly.

RESOLUTION 66/251

Adopted at the 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/584, para. 6)

66/251. Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012[128] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[129]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1991 (2011) of 28 June 2011, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Stabilization Mission until 30 June 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 54/260 A of 7 April 2000 on the financing of the Stabilization Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 65/296 of 30 June 2011,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[129] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that technical and logistical support is provided for the elections in full and on time in accordance with the mandate given to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

3. *Takes note* of paragraphs 22 and 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

Financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

4. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the amount of 69,560,100 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 for the support of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in addition to the amount of 1,507,538,900 dollars previously appropriated for the Stabilization Mission for the same period under the terms of its resolution 65/296, inclusive of 1,416,926,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Stabilization Mission, 76,783,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 13,829,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

5. *Also decides*, taking into account the amount of 1,507,538,900 dollars already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 65/296 for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 69,560,100 dollars for the same period, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

6. *Further decides* to keep under review during its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

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[128] A/66/375.

[129] A/66/545.

VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee

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RESOLUTION 66/92

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/469, para. 8)[1]

66/92. Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States

The General Assembly,

Having examined the item entitled "Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States",

Recalling its resolution 54/112 of 9 December 1999, in which it decided to consider at its fifty-fifth session the draft articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States prepared by the International Law Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 55/153 of 12 December 2000, the annex to which contains the articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States,

Recalling further its resolutions 59/34 of 2 December 2004 and 63/118 of 11 December 2008,

Taking into consideration the comments and observations of Governments[2] and the discussions held in the Sixth Committee at the fifty-ninth, sixty-third and sixty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly[3] on the question of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, with a view, in particular, to preventing the occurrence of statelessness as a result of a succession of States, as well as on the advisability of elaborating a legal instrument on this question,

Taking note, in this regard, of the efforts made at the regional level towards the elaboration of a legal instrument on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession,

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into account, as appropriate, the provisions of the articles contained in the annex to resolution 55/153, in dealing with issues of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States;

2. *Once again encourages* States to consider, as appropriate, at the regional or subregional levels, the elaboration of legal instruments regulating questions of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, with a view, in particular, to preventing the occurrence of statelessness as a result of a succession of States;

3. *Emphasizes* the value of the articles in providing guidance to the States dealing with issues of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, in particular concerning the avoidance of statelessness;

4. *Decides* that, upon the request of any State, it will revert to the question of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States at an appropriate time, in the light of the development of State practice in these matters.

RESOLUTION 66/93

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/470, para. 8)[4]

66/93. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations,[5]

Recalling also that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel,[6]

Recalling further its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, without due process,[7]

Recognizing the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

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[1] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the Bureau.

[2] A/59/180 and Add.1 and 2, A/63/113 and A/66/178 and Add.1.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Sixth Committee*, 15th meeting (A/C.6/59/SR.15), and corrigendum; ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Sixth Committee*, 11th meeting (A/C.6/63/SR.11), and corrigendum; and ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Sixth Committee*, 15th meeting (A/C.6/66/SR.15), and corrigendum.

[4] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Greece on behalf of the Bureau.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1), part one, chap. III, sect. D, para. 56.

[6] See A/59/710.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1), part two, chap. II, sect. N, para. 40 (*a*).

Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law,

Reaffirming also that the present resolution is without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the United Nations under international law,

Reaffirming further the obligation of United Nations officials and experts on mission to respect the national laws of the host State, as well as the right of the host State to exercise, where applicable, its criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing operations of United Nations missions,

Deeply concerned by reports of criminal conduct, and conscious that such conduct, if not investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted, would create the negative impression that United Nations officials and experts on mission operate with impunity,

Reaffirming the need to ensure that all United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that crimes committed by such persons are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations, in particular with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country,

Conscious of the importance of protecting the rights of victims of criminal conduct, as well as of ensuring adequate protection for witnesses, and recalling the adoption of its resolution 62/214 of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel,

Emphasizing the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolution 61/29 of 4 December 2006, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Having considered at its previous sessions the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution 59/300[8] and the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee,[9] as well as the note by the Secretariat[10] and the reports of the Secretary-General[11] on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolutions 62/63 of 6 December 2007, 63/119 of 11 December 2008, 64/110 of 16 December 2009 and 65/20 of 6 December 2010,

Recalling also its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its sixty-seventh session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee,

Convinced of the continuing need for the United Nations and its Member States to urgently take strong and effective steps to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission in the interest of justice,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Strongly urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and the United Nations under international law, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process;

3. *Strongly urges* all States to consider establishing, to the extent that they have not yet done so, jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State;

4. *Encourages* all States to cooperate with each other and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and in facilitating the conduct of investigations and, as appropriate, the prosecution of United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature, in accordance with their domestic law and applicable United Nations rules and regulations, fully respecting due process rights, as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes;

5. *Also encourages* all States:

(*a*) To afford each other assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by United

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[8] See A/60/980.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/62/54); and ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/63/54).

[10] A/62/329.

[11] A/63/260 and Add.1, A/64/183 and Add.1 and A/65/185.

[12] A/66/174 and Add.1.

Nations officials and experts on mission, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal, in accordance with their domestic law or any treaties or other arrangements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that may exist between them;

(*b*) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of facilitating the possible use of information and material obtained from the United Nations for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated in their territory for the prosecution of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, bearing in mind due process considerations;

(*c*) In accordance with their domestic law, to provide effective protection for victims of, witnesses to and others who provide information in relation to crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and to facilitate access of victims to victim assistance programmes, without prejudice to the rights of the alleged offender, including those relating to due process;

(*d*) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of responding adequately to requests by host States for support and assistance in order to enhance their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure that requests to Member States seeking personnel to serve as experts on mission make States aware of the expectation that persons who serve in that capacity should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and be aware that certain conduct may amount to a crime for which they may be held accountable;

7. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to take such other practical measures as are within his authority to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training for United Nations officials and experts on mission;

8. *Reiterates* its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects,[8] taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat,[10] shall be continued during its sixty-seventh session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and, for that purpose, invites further comments from Member States on that report, including on the question of future action;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission to the attention of the States against whose nationals such allegations are made and to request from those States an indication of the status of their efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute crimes of a serious nature, as well as the types of appropriate assistance that States may wish to receive from the Secretariat for the purposes of such investigations and prosecutions;

10. *Urges* States to provide to the Secretary-General at the appropriate time information on their handling of the credible allegations brought to their attention by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 above;

11. *Requests* the United Nations, when its investigations into allegations suggest that crimes of a serious nature may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, to consider any appropriate measures that may facilitate the possible use of information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States, bearing in mind due process considerations;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations, when allegations against United Nations officials or experts on mission are determined by a United Nations administrative investigation to be unfounded, to take appropriate measures, in the interests of the Organization, to restore the credibility and the reputation of such officials and experts on mission;

13. *Urges* the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them, within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

14. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Organization, should take no action that would retaliate against or intimidate United Nations officials and experts on mission who report allegations concerning crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the information provided by Governments in response to its resolutions 62/63, 63/119, 64/110 and 65/20, and urges Governments to continue taking the measures necessary for the implementation of those resolutions, including their provisions addressing the establishment of jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as cooperation among States, and to provide specific details thereon, in particular with respect to paragraph 3 of the present resolution, in the information provided to the Secretary-General;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with respect to paragraphs 3, 5, 8 and 9 above, as well as any practical problems in its implementation, on the basis of information received from Governments and the Secretariat;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report information on the number and types of credible

allegations and any actions taken by the United Nations and its Member States regarding crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including information on efforts made to ensure the completeness of incident reporting;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission".

RESOLUTION 66/94

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/471, para. 14)[13]

66/94. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-fourth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Reaffirming its belief that the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting developing countries, would contribute significantly to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity, common interest and respect for the rule of law, to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to peace, stability and the well-being of all peoples,

Having considered the report of the Commission,[14]

Reiterating its concern that activities undertaken by other bodies in the field of international trade law without adequate coordination with the Commission might lead to undesirable duplication of efforts and would not be in keeping with the aim of promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field, in particular to avoid duplication of efforts, including among organizations formulating rules of international trade, and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law, and to continue, through its secretariat, to maintain close cooperation with other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;[14]

2. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization and adoption of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Public Procurement[15] and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective;[16]

3. *Takes note with interest* of the progress made by the Commission in its work on the preparation of legal standards on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration, online dispute resolution for cross-border electronic transactions and electronic commerce, in particular at the colloquium held in February 2011, the interpretation and application of selected concepts of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency[17] relating to centre of main interests, and a draft text on the registration of security rights in movable assets;[18]

4. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Commission to prepare a guide to enactment of the Model Law on Public Procurement, in as efficient and practical a manner as possible, and a study on possible future work of the Commission in the area of public-private partnerships and privately financed infrastructure projects, to undertake work in the field of electronic transferable records, to prepare, in cooperation with the World Bank, draft principles on effective secured transactions regimes, within existing resources and without utilizing working group resources, and to include microfinance

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[13] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17).

[15] Ibid., chap. III and annex I.

[16] Ibid., chap. IV.

[17] *UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency with Guide to Enactment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.V.3), part one.

[18] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), chaps. V-IX.

as an item for the future work of the Commission and to further consider that matter at its next session, in 2012;[19]

5. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Commission to commend the use of the 2010 revision of the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees, published by the International Chamber of Commerce, as appropriate, in transactions involving demand guarantees;[20]

6. *Also notes with appreciation* the progress made in the ongoing project of the Commission on monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done in New York on 10 June 1958,[21] and the decision of the Commission to request the Secretariat to pursue its efforts towards the preparation of a guide on the Convention;[22]

7. *Endorses* the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field, and in this regard appeals to relevant international and regional organizations to coordinate their legal activities with those of the Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the significant progress in the Commission's coordination and cooperation activities in the field of security interests and in particular the approval by the Commission of a paper prepared jointly by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the secretariats of the Commission and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, with the assistance of outside experts, entitled "Comparison and analysis of major features of international instruments relating to secured transactions",[23] as well as the request that it be given the widest possible dissemination, including as a United Nations sales publication, with proper recognition of the contribution of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the secretariat of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law;[24]

9. *Notes* the agreement of the Commission that a coordinated approach to the matter of the law applicable to the proprietary effects of assignments of receivables is in the interest of all States and its request to the Secretariat to cooperate closely with the European Commission with a view to ensuring a coordinated approach to the matter, taking into account the approach followed in the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade[25] and the *UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions*;[26]

10. *Reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with technical cooperation and assistance in the field of international trade law reform and development, and in this connection:

(*a*) Welcomes the initiatives of the Commission towards expanding, through its secretariat, its technical cooperation and assistance programme, and in that respect encourages the Secretary-General to seek partnerships with State and non-State actors to increase awareness about the work of the Commission and facilitate the effective implementation of legal standards resulting from its work;

(*b*) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities and for providing assistance with legislative drafting in the field of international trade law, and draws the attention of the Secretary-General to the limited resources that are made available in this field;

(*c*) Takes note with interest of the comprehensive approach to technical cooperation and assistance, based on the strategic framework for technical assistance suggested by the Secretariat to promote universal adoption of the texts of the Commission and to disseminate information on recently adopted texts;[27]

(*d*) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions enabled the technical cooperation and assistance activities to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Trust Fund for Symposia and, where appropriate, for the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular in developing countries;

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[19] Ibid., chap. III, paras. 181–187, 190 and 191; chap. VIII, para. 228; and chaps. IX and X.

[20] Ibid., chap. XI.

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 330, No. 4739.

[22] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), chap. XII.

[23] See A/CN.9/720.

[24] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), paras. 278–283.

[25] Resolution 56/81, annex.

[26] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.V.12.

[27] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), chap. XIII.

(*e*) Reiterates its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission, in the light of the relevance and importance of the work and programmes of the Commission for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and for the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Calls upon* Member States, non-member States, observer organizations and the Secretariat to apply the rules of procedure and methods of work of the Commission, taking into account the summary of conclusions as reproduced in annex III to the report on the work of its forty-third session,[28] with a view to ensuring the high quality of the work of the Commission and international acceptability of its instruments, and in this regard recalls its previous resolutions related to this matter;

12. *Welcomes* the decision by the Commission to establish, subject to the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations and the internal approval process in the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, a Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, in the Republic of Korea, as a novel yet important first step for the Commission in reaching out and providing technical assistance to developing countries in the region, it being understood that the establishment of a regional presence would have to rely entirely on extrabudgetary resources, including but not limited to voluntary contributions from States, expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous contribution to the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the establishment of such regional centres, including the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in the Republic of Korea and, in particular, their funding and budgetary situation;[29]

13. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, in order to enable renewal of the provision of that assistance and to increase expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, necessary to build local expertise and capacities in the field of international trade law in those countries to facilitate the development of international trade and the promotion of foreign investment;

14. *Decides*, in order to ensure full participation of all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue, in the competent Main Committee during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, its consideration of granting travel assistance to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

15. *Endorses* the conviction of the Commission that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards on international trade are essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General;

16. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the panel discussion on the role of the Commission in the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict societies, held during the forty-fourth session of the Commission, and takes note of the particular relevance of the instruments and resources of the Commission for creating an environment of sustainable economic activity conducive to post-conflict reconstruction and preventing societies from sliding back into conflict;

17. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the Commission at the end of the panel discussion that, owing to a lack of sufficient resources, innovative ways need to be found for the early engagement of the instruments and resources of the Commission in post-conflict recovery operations of the United Nations and other donors, and that awareness needs to be increased of the fact that the Commission deals also with the basic building blocks for commercial activity and thus makes a real and immediate contribution in societies emerging from conflict;[30]

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in conformity with General Assembly resolutions on documentation-related matters,[31] which, in particular, emphasize that any invitation to limit, where appropriate, the length of documents should not adversely affect either the quality of the presentation or the substance of the documents, to bear in mind the particular characteristics of the mandate and functions of the Commission in the progressive development and codification of international trade law when implementing

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[28] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/65/17).

[29] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), paras. 262–270.

[30] Ibid., paras. 318 and 319.

[31] Resolutions 52/214, sect. B, 57/283 B, sect. III, and 58/250, sect. III.

page limits with respect to the documentation of the Commission;[32]

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue providing summary records of the meetings of the Commission, including committees of the whole established by the Commission for the duration of its annual session, relating to the formulation of normative texts, and encourages the Commission to discuss the matter at its next session, on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretariat;[33]

20. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure the broadest possible participation in meetings of the Commission, and in this connection notes the existing rationale for the historical alternating pattern of sites for meetings of the Commission, that is, the proportionate distribution of travel costs among delegations, the global influence and presence of the Commission and the needs of developing countries, many of which do not have representation in Vienna, also notes the agreement of the Commission that every effort should be made to identify alternatives to abolishing the alternating pattern of meetings that would achieve a similar result, and in this respect encourages Member States, jointly with the Secretariat, to continue to review current working practices to achieve increased efficiency, and with a view to identifying budgetary savings;[34]

21. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the use of texts emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to conventions, enacting model laws and encouraging the use of other relevant texts;

22. *Welcomes* the preparation of digests of case law relating to the texts of the Commission, such as a digest of case law relating to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods,[35] a digest of case law relating to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration,[36] and a digest of case law relating to the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, with the aim of assisting in the dissemination of information on those texts and promoting their use, enactment and uniform interpretation.

RESOLUTION 66/95

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/471, para. 14)[37]

66/95. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Public Procurement

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with the purpose of furthering the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade in the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Noting that procurement constitutes a significant portion of public expenditure in most States,

Recalling its resolution 49/54 of 9 December 1994 recommending the use of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services,[38]

Observing that the 1994 Model Law, which has become an important international benchmark in procurement law reform, sets out procedures aimed at achieving competition, transparency, fairness, economy and efficiency in the procurement process,

Observing also that, despite the widely recognized value of the 1994 Model Law, new issues and practices have arisen since its adoption that have justified revision of the text,

Recognizing that at its thirty-seventh session, in 2004, the Commission agreed that the 1994 Model Law would benefit from being updated to reflect new practices, in particular those resulting from the use of electronic communications in public procurement, and the experience gained in the use of the 1994 Model Law as a basis for law reform, not departing, however, from the basic principles behind it and not modifying the provisions whose usefulness had been proved,

Noting that the revisions to the 1994 Model Law were the subject of due deliberation and extensive consultations with Governments and interested international organizations, and that thus it can be expected that the revised Model Law, to be called the "United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Public Procurement", would be acceptable to States with different legal, social and economic systems,

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[32] Resolutions 59/39, para. 9, and 65/21, para. 18; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/59/17), paras. 124–128.

[33] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), para. 333.

[34] Ibid., chap. XXI.

[35] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1489, No. 25567.

[36] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/40/17), annex I; and ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/61/17), annex I.

[37] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Austria on behalf of the Bureau.

[38] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17* and corrigendum (A/49/17 and Corr.1), annex I.

Noting also that the revised Model Law is expected to contribute significantly to the establishment of a harmonized and modern legal framework for public procurement that promotes economy, efficiency and competition in procurement and, at the same time, fosters integrity, confidence, fairness and transparency in the procurement process,

Convinced that the revised Model Law will significantly assist all States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in enhancing their existing procurement laws and formulating procurement laws where none presently exist, and will lead to the development of harmonious international economic relations and increased economic development,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for developing and adopting the draft United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Public Procurement;[39]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the Model Law to Governments and other interested bodies;

3. *Recommends* that all States use the Model Law in assessing their legal regimes for public procurement and give favourable consideration to the Model Law when they enact or revise their laws;

4. *Calls for* closer cooperation and coordination among the Commission and other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of procurement law reform, in order to avoid undesirable duplication of efforts and inconsistent, incoherent or conflicting results in the modernization and harmonization of public procurement law;

5. *Endorses* the efforts and initiatives of the secretariat of the Commission aimed at increasing the coordination of, and cooperation on, legal activities concerned with public procurement reform.

RESOLUTION 66/96

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/471, para. 14)[40]

66/96. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with the purpose of furthering the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade in the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Noting that, where individuals and enterprises conduct their businesses on a global basis and have assets and interests in more than one State, the efficient conduct of the insolvency of those individuals and enterprises requires cross-border cooperation in, and coordination of, the supervision and administration of those assets and affairs,

Considering that the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency[41] contributes significantly to the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for effectively administering cross-border insolvency and facilitating cooperation and coordination,

Acknowledging that familiarity with cooperation and coordination in cross-border insolvency cases and how the Model Law may be implemented in practice is not widespread,

Convinced that providing readily accessible information on the interpretation of and current practice with respect to the Model Law for reference and use by judges in insolvency proceedings has the potential to promote wider use and understanding of the Model Law and facilitate cross-border judicial cooperation and coordination, avoiding unnecessary delay and costs,

Noting with satisfaction the completion and adoption on 1 July 2011 of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective by the Commission at its forty-fourth session,[42]

Noting that the preparation of the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective was the subject of consultation with Governments, judges and other insolvency professionals,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for the completion and adoption of the United Nations Commission on International

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[39] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), para. 192 and annex I.

[40] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Austria on behalf of the Bureau.

[41] *UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency with Guide to Enactment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.V.3), part one.

[42] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/66/17), para. 198.

Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective;[42]

2. *Requests* the establishment by the Secretariat of the United Nations of a mechanism for updating the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective on an ongoing basis in the same flexible manner as that in which it was developed, ensuring that it maintains a neutral tone and continues to meet its stated purpose;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publish, including electronically, the text of the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective, as updated or amended from time to time in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present resolution, and to transmit it to Governments with the request that the text be made available to relevant authorities so that it becomes widely known and available;

4. *Recommends* that the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency: The Judicial Perspective be given due consideration, as appropriate, by judges, insolvency practitioners and other stakeholders involved in cross-border insolvency proceedings;

5. *Also recommends* that all States consider the implementation of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.[41]

RESOLUTION 66/97

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/472, para. 7)[43]

66/97. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which it established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for nearly half a century,

Reaffirming also that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[44] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, which are contained in that report,

Noting with concern the reduction in the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 for fellowships for the benefit of developing countries indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, notwithstanding its resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009 and 65/25 of 6 December 2010,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Approves* the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General,[44] in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2012 and 2013, the activities specified in his report, in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained therein, including the provision of:

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[43] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the Bureau.

[44] A/66/505.

(*a*) A number of fellowships, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries, to attend the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague in 2012 and 2013;

(*b*) A number of fellowships, to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries, to attend regional courses in international law in 2012 and 2013;

and to finance the above activities from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary financial contributions for these fellowships, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 below;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2012 and 2013 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions made for this fellowship, and in this regard calls upon States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary contributions specifically for this fellowship;

4. *Further authorizes* the Secretary-General to continue and further develop the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world and to continue to finance this activity from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary financial contributions, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 18 and 19 below;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2011;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of such participation;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide to the programme budget for the next and future bienniums the necessary resources for the Programme of Assistance to ensure the continued effectiveness and further development of the Programme, in particular the organization of regional courses in international law on a regular basis and the viability of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and strongly encourages their continued publication in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, and, in particular, commends the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its desktop publishing initiative, which has greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications and has made possible the preparation of legal training materials;

10. *Encourages* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

11. *Encourages* the use of interns and research assistants for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

12. *Welcomes* the training and technical assistance activities in international law undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs within the framework of the Programme of Assistance, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the continuation of such activities within available resources;

13. *Commends* the Codification Division for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme to maintain the number of fellowships available for this comprehensive international law training programme;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to The Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with the Academy courses;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of The Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct regional courses in international law as an important training activity;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia and Thailand for offering to host regional courses in international law in 2012 and to Mexico for offering to host a regional course in international law in 2013, subject to adequate funding from the overall resources referred to in paragraph 2 above;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

19. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, institutions and individuals that have made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

20. *Urges*, in particular, all Governments to make voluntary contributions for the regional courses in international law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme, thus alleviating the burden on prospective host countries and making it possible to conduct the regional courses on a regular basis;

21. *Decides* to appoint twenty-five Member States, six from African States, five from Asia-Pacific States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and six from Western European and other States, as members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance for a period of four years beginning on 1 January 2012;[45]

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme of Assistance in subsequent years;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

RESOLUTION 66/98

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/473, para. 14)[46]

66/98. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session,[47]

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development and codification of international law as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[48]

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission to enhance further their contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Recalling also the role of Member States in submitting proposals for new topics for the consideration of the International Law Commission, and noting in this regard the recommendation of the Commission that such proposals be accompanied by a statement of reasons,

Reaffirming the importance for the successful work of the International Law Commission of the information provided by Member States concerning their views and practice,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission,

Welcoming the holding of the International Law Seminar, and noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar,

Acknowledging the importance of facilitating the timely publication of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* and of eliminating the backlog,

Stressing the usefulness of focusing and structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report and for discussions on specific topics,

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[45] The following States have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America.

[46] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the Bureau.

[47] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/66/10).

[48] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Wishing to enhance further, in the context of the revitalization of the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies,

Welcoming initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question time in the Sixth Committee, as envisaged in resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session;[47]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its sixty-third session;

3. *Recommends* that the International Law Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether submitted in writing or expressed orally in debates in the Sixth Committee;

4. *Commends* the International Law Commission for the completion of its work on the draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations,[49] the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties,[50] and the Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties;[51]

5. *Decides* that the consideration of chapter IV of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session, dealing with the topic "Reservations to treaties", shall be continued at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, during the consideration of the report of the Commission on the work of its sixty-fourth session;

6. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on the various aspects of the topics on the agenda of the Commission, in particular on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report, regarding:

(*a*) Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction;

(*b*) Expulsion of aliens;

(*c*) Protection of persons in the event of disasters;

(*d*) The obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*);

(*e*) Treaties over time;

(*f*) The most-favoured-nation clause;

7. *Takes note* of paragraphs 365 to 369 of the report of the International Law Commission and, in particular, of the inclusion of the topics "Formation and evidence of customary international law", "Protection of the atmosphere", "Provisional application of treaties", "The fair and equitable treatment standard in international investment law" and "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts" in the long-term programme of work of the Commission,[52] and also takes note of the respective comments made by Member States;

8. *Invites* the International Law Commission to continue to give priority to, and work towards the conclusion of, the topics "Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction" and "The obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*)";

9. *Takes note* of the oral report by the Secretariat on assistance to special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission[53] and of paragraph 400 of the report of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to identify concrete options for support for the work of special rapporteurs, additional to those provided under General Assembly resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002;

10. *Also takes note* of paragraphs 370 to 388 of the report of the International Law Commission, and in this regard welcomes the work of the Commission during its sixty-third session to improve its methods of work relating to the role of the special rapporteurs, the study groups, the Drafting Committee, the Planning Group, the preparation of commentaries to draft articles, the final form of the work undertaken on a specific topic, the Commission's report and the relationship with the Sixth Committee;

11. *Welcomes*, in this regard, in particular, the decision of the International Law Commission to define a tentative schedule for the development of any new topic, to periodically review the attainment of annual targets, and to discuss a preliminary plan for the next annual session at the end of each session, and invites the Commission to make such information available to Member States;

12. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of the recommendation contained in paragraph 388 of the report of the International Law Commission during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

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[49] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/66/10), chap. V, sect. E.

[50] Ibid., chap. VI, sect. E.

[51] Ibid., chap. IV, sect. F.

[52] Ibid., chap. XIII, para. 365.

[53] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Sixth Committee*, 26th meeting (A/C.6/66/SR.26), and corrigendum; see also A/64/283 and A/65/186.

13. *Invites* the International Law Commission to continue taking measures to enhance its efficiency and productivity and to consider making proposals to Member States to that end;

14. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue taking cost-saving measures at its future sessions, without prejudice to the efficiency and effectiveness of its work;

15. *Takes note* of paragraphs 389 to 391 and 413 to 415 of the report of the International Law Commission and, while acknowledging the exceptional character of its short duration, decides that the next session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 7 May to 1 June and from 2 July to 3 August 2012, and requests the Secretariat to present options on how to secure earlier dates for the sessions of the Commission to ensure optimal working conditions for the Commission and the timely publication of its report to the General Assembly;

16. *Stresses* the desirability of further enhancing the dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and in this context encourages, inter alia, the continued practice of informal consultations in the form of discussions between the members of the Sixth Committee and the members of the Commission attending the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly;

17. *Encourages* delegations, during the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, to adhere as far as possible to the structured work programme agreed to by the Sixth Committee and to consider presenting concise and focused statements;

18. *Encourages* Member States to consider being represented at the level of legal adviser during the first week in which the report of the International Law Commission is discussed in the Sixth Committee (International Law Week) to enable high-level discussions on issues of international law;

19. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

20. *Takes note* of paragraphs 418 to 422 of the report of the International Law Commission with regard to cooperation and interaction with other bodies, and encourages the Commission to continue the implementation of articles 16 (*e*), 25 and 26 of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation;

21. *Notes* that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

22. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the indispensable role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in providing assistance to the International Law Commission, including in the preparation of memorandums and studies on topics on the agenda of the Commission;

23. *Approves* the conclusions reached by the International Law Commission in paragraph 402 of its report, and reaffirms its previous decisions concerning the documentation and summary records of the Commission;[54]

24. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat to include on a trial basis the provisional summary records on the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission, encourages their immediate inclusion as soon as the electronic versions are received by the secretariat of the Commission, and looks forward to the institutionalization of this practice;

25. *Takes note* of paragraphs 403 to 405 of the report of the International Law Commission, and stresses the need to expedite the preparation of the summary records of the Commission;

26. *Also takes note* of paragraphs 406 to 409 of the report of the International Law Commission, stresses the value of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its timely publication in all official languages;

27. *Further takes note* of paragraph 410 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its appreciation to Governments that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund on the backlog relating to the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and encourages further contributions to the fund;

28. *Welcomes* the continuous efforts of the Codification Division to maintain and improve the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission;[55]

29. *Expresses the hope* that the International Law Seminar will continue to be held in connection with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants representing the principal legal systems of the world, including in particular those from developing countries, will be given the opportunity to attend the Seminar, as well as delegates to the Sixth Committee, and appeals to States

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[54] See resolutions 32/151, para. 10, and 37/111, para. 5, and all subsequent resolutions on the annual reports of the International Law Commission to the General Assembly.

[55] www.un.org/law/ilc.

to continue to make urgently needed voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the International Law Seminar with adequate services, including interpretation, as required, and encourages him to continue considering ways to improve the structure and content of the Seminar;

31. *Underlines the importance* of the records and topical summary of the debate in the Sixth Committee for the deliberations of the International Law Commission and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to forward to the Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

32. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate to States, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the International Law Commission, chapter II of its report containing a summary of the work of that session, chapter III containing the specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission and the draft articles adopted on either first or second reading by the Commission;

33. *Also requests* the Secretariat to make the complete report of the International Law Commission available as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the Commission for the consideration of Member States with due anticipation and no later than the prescribed time limit for reports in the General Assembly;

34. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue considering ways in which specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission could be framed so as to help Governments to have a better appreciation of the issues on which responses are required;

35. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly commence on 29 October 2012.

RESOLUTION 66/99

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/473, para. 14)[56]

66/99. Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter VI of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session,[57] which contains the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties,

Noting that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties in a resolution and annex the draft articles to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,[58]

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (*a*), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of the effects of armed conflicts on treaties is of major importance in the relations of States,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties and its adoption of the draft articles and a detailed commentary on the subject;[57]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law;

3. *Takes note* of the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties, presented by the International Law Commission. the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, and commends them to the attention of Governments without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session an item entitled "Effects of armed conflicts on treaties" with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

Annex

Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

Part One
Scope and definitions

Article 1
Scope

The present articles apply to the effects of armed conflict on the relations of States under a treaty.

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[56] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Bureau.

[57] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/66/10).

[58] Ibid., para. 97.

Article 2
Definitions

For the purposes of the present articles:

(*a*) "Treaty" means an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation, and includes treaties between States to which international organizations are also parties;

(*b*) "Armed conflict" means a situation in which there is resort to armed force between States or protracted resort to armed force between governmental authorities and organized armed groups.

Part Two
Principles

Chapter I
Operation of treaties in the event of armed conflicts

Article 3
General principle

The existence of an armed conflict does not ipso facto terminate or suspend the operation of treaties:

(*a*) As between States parties to the conflict;

(*b*) As between a State party to the conflict and a State that is not.

Article 4
Provisions on the operation of treaties

Where a treaty itself contains provisions on its operation in situations of armed conflict, those provisions shall apply.

Article 5
Application of rules on treaty interpretation

The rules of international law on treaty interpretation shall be applied to establish whether a treaty is susceptible to termination, withdrawal or suspension in the event of an armed conflict.

Article 6
Factors indicating whether a treaty is susceptible to termination, withdrawal or suspension

In order to ascertain whether a treaty is susceptible to termination, withdrawal or suspension in the event of an armed conflict, regard shall be had to all relevant factors, including:

(*a*) The nature of the treaty, in particular its subject matter, its object and purpose, its content and the number of parties to the treaty; and

(*b*) The characteristics of the armed conflict, such as its territorial extent, its scale and intensity, its duration and, in the case of non-international armed conflict, also the degree of outside involvement.

Article 7
Continued operation of treaties resulting from their subject matter

An indicative list of treaties, the subject matter of which involves an implication that they continue in operation, in whole or in part, during armed conflict, is to be found in the annex to the present articles.

Chapter II
Other provisions relevant to the operation of treaties

Article 8
Conclusion of treaties during armed conflict

1. The existence of an armed conflict does not affect the capacity of a State party to that conflict to conclude treaties in accordance with international law.

2. States may conclude agreements involving termination or suspension of a treaty or part of a treaty that is operative between them during situations of armed conflict, or may agree to amend or modify the treaty.

Article 9
Notification of intention to terminate or withdraw from a treaty or to suspend its operation

1. A State intending to terminate or withdraw from a treaty to which it is a Party, or to suspend the operation of that treaty, as a consequence of an armed conflict shall notify the other State Party or States Parties to the treaty, or its depositary, of such intention.

2. The notification takes effect upon receipt by the other State Party or States Parties, unless it provides for a subsequent date.

3. Nothing in the preceding paragraphs shall affect the right of a Party to object within a reasonable time, in accordance with the terms of the treaty or other applicable rules of international law, to the termination of or withdrawal from the treaty, or suspension of its operation.

4. If an objection has been raised in accordance with paragraph 3, the States concerned shall seek a solution through the means indicated in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. Nothing in the preceding paragraphs shall affect the rights or obligations of States with regard to the settlement of disputes insofar as they have remained applicable.

Article 10
Obligations imposed by international law independently of a treaty

The termination of or the withdrawal from a treaty, or the suspension of its operation, as a consequence of an armed conflict, shall not impair in any way the duty of any State to fulfil any obligation embodied in the treaty to which it would be subject under international law independently of that treaty.

Article 11
Separability of treaty provisions

Termination, withdrawal from or suspension of the operation of a treaty as a consequence of an armed conflict shall, unless the treaty otherwise provides or the Parties otherwise agree, take effect with respect to the whole treaty except where:

(*a*) The treaty contains clauses that are separable from the remainder of the treaty with regard to their application;

(*b*) It appears from the treaty or is otherwise established that acceptance of those clauses was not an essential basis of the consent of the other Party or Parties to be bound by the treaty as a whole; and

(*c*) Continued performance of the remainder of the treaty would not be unjust.

Article 12
Loss of the right to terminate or withdraw from a treaty or to suspend its operation

A State may no longer terminate or withdraw from a treaty or suspend its operation as a consequence of an armed conflict if, after becoming aware of the facts:

(*a*) It shall have expressly agreed that the treaty remains in force or continues in operation; or

(*b*) It must by reason of its conduct be considered as having acquiesced in the continued operation of the treaty or in its maintenance in force.

Article 13
Revival or resumption of treaty relations subsequent to an armed conflict

1. Subsequent to an armed conflict, the States Parties may regulate, on the basis of agreement, the revival of treaties terminated or suspended as a consequence of the armed conflict.

2. The resumption of the operation of a treaty suspended as a consequence of an armed conflict shall be determined in accordance with the factors referred to in article 6.

Part Three
Miscellaneous

Article 14
Effect of the exercise of the right to self-defence on a treaty

A State exercising its inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations is entitled to suspend in whole or in part the operation of a treaty to which it is a Party insofar as that operation is incompatible with the exercise of that right.

Article 15
Prohibition of benefit to an aggressor State

A State committing aggression within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 3314 (XXIX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations shall not terminate or withdraw from a treaty or suspend its operation as a consequence of an armed conflict that results from the act of aggression if the effect would be to the benefit of that State.

Article 16
Decisions of the Security Council

The present articles are without prejudice to relevant decisions taken by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 17
Rights and duties arising from the laws of neutrality

The present articles are without prejudice to the rights and duties of States arising from the laws of neutrality.

Article 18
Other cases of termination, withdrawal or suspension

The present articles are without prejudice to the termination, withdrawal or suspension of treaties as a consequence of, inter alia: (*a*) a material breach; (*b*) supervening impossibility of performance; or (*c*) a fundamental change of circumstances.

Annex
Indicative list of treaties referred to in article 7

(*a*) Treaties on the law of armed conflict, including treaties on international humanitarian law;

(*b*) Treaties declaring, creating or regulating a permanent regime or status or related permanent rights, including treaties establishing or modifying land and maritime boundaries;

(*c*) Multilateral law-making treaties;

(*d*) Treaties on international criminal justice;

(*e*) Treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation and agreements concerning private rights;

(*f*) Treaties for the international protection of human rights;

(*g*) Treaties relating to the international protection of the environment;

(*h*) Treaties relating to international watercourses and related installations and facilities;

(*i*) Treaties relating to aquifers and related installations and facilities;

(*j*) Treaties which are constituent instruments of international organizations;

(*k*) Treaties relating to the international settlement of disputes by peaceful means, including resort to conciliation, mediation, arbitration and judicial settlement;

(*l*) Treaties relating to diplomatic and consular relations.

RESOLUTION 66/100

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/473, para. 14)[59]

66/100. Responsibility of international organizations

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter V of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session,[60] which contains the draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations,

Noting that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations in a resolution and annex the draft articles to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,[61]

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (*a*), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of responsibility of international organizations is of major importance in the relations of States and international organizations,

Taking note of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on this topic,[62]

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on responsibility of international organizations and its adoption of the draft articles and a detailed commentary on the subject;[60]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law;

3. *Takes note* of the articles on the responsibility of international organizations, presented by the International Law Commission, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, and commends them to the attention of Governments and international organizations without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session an item entitled "Responsibility of international organizations", with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

Annex

Responsibility of international organizations

Part One
Introduction

Article 1
Scope of the present articles

1. The present articles apply to the international responsibility of an international organization for an internationally wrongful act.

2. The present articles also apply to the international responsibility of a State for an internationally wrongful act in connection with the conduct of an international organization.

Article 2
Use of terms

For the purposes of the present articles:

(*a*) "International organization" means an organization established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality. International organizations may include as members, in addition to States, other entities;

(*b*) "Rules of the organization" means, in particular, the constituent instruments, decisions, resolutions and other acts of the international organization adopted in accordance with those instruments, and established practice of the organization;

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[59] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Bureau.

[60] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/66/10).

[61] Ibid., para. 85.

[62] Ibid., *Sixth Committee*, 18th to 28th and 30th meetings (A/C.6/66/SR.18–28 and 30), and corrigendum.

(*c*) "Organ of an international organization" means any person or entity which has that status in accordance with the rules of the organization;

(*d*) "Agent of an international organization" means an official or other person or entity, other than an organ, who is charged by the organization with carrying out, or helping to carry out, one of its functions, and thus through whom the organization acts.

Part Two
The internationally wrongful act of an international organization

Chapter I
General principles

Article 3
Responsibility of an international organization for its internationally wrongful acts

Every internationally wrongful act of an international organization entails the international responsibility of that organization.

Article 4
Elements of an internationally wrongful act of an international organization

There is an internationally wrongful act of an international organization when conduct consisting of an action or omission:

(*a*) Is attributable to that organization under international law; and

(*b*) Constitutes a breach of an international obligation of that organization.

Article 5
Characterization of an act of an international organization as internationally wrongful

The characterization of an act of an international organization as internationally wrongful is governed by international law.

Chapter II
Attribution of conduct to an international organization

Article 6
Conduct of organs or agents of an international organization

1. The conduct of an organ or agent of an international organization in the performance of functions of that organ or agent shall be considered an act of that organization under international law, whatever position the organ or agent holds in respect of the organization.

2. The rules of the organization apply in the determination of the functions of its organs and agents.

Article 7
Conduct of organs of a State or organs or agents of an international organization placed at the disposal of another international organization

The conduct of an organ of a State or an organ or agent of an international organization that is placed at the disposal of another international organization shall be considered under international law an act of the latter organization if the organization exercises effective control over that conduct.

Article 8
Excess of authority or contravention of instructions

The conduct of an organ or agent of an international organization shall be considered an act of that organization under international law if the organ or agent acts in an official capacity and within the overall functions of that organization, even if the conduct exceeds the authority of that organ or agent or contravenes instructions.

Article 9
Conduct acknowledged and adopted by an international organization as its own

Conduct which is not attributable to an international organization under articles 6 to 8 shall nevertheless be considered an act of that organization under international law if and to the extent that the organization acknowledges and adopts the conduct in question as its own.

Chapter III
Breach of an international obligation

Article 10
Existence of a breach of an international obligation

1. There is a breach of an international obligation by an international organization when an act of that international organization is not in conformity with what is required of it by that obligation, regardless of the origin or character of the obligation concerned.

2. Paragraph 1 includes the breach of any international obligation that may arise for an international organization towards its members under the rules of the organization.

Article 11
International obligation in force for an international organization

An act of an international organization does not constitute a breach of an international obligation unless the organization is bound by the obligation in question at the time the act occurs.

Article 12
Extension in time of the breach of an international obligation

1. The breach of an international obligation by an act of an international organization not having a continuing character occurs at the moment when the act is performed, even if its effects continue.

2. The breach of an international obligation by an act of an international organization having a continuing character extends over the entire period during which the act continues and remains not in conformity with that obligation.

3. The breach of an international obligation requiring an international organization to prevent a given event occurs when the event occurs and extends over the entire period during which the event continues and remains not in conformity with that obligation.

Article 13
Breach consisting of a composite act

1. The breach of an international obligation by an international organization through a series of actions and omissions defined in aggregate as wrongful occurs when the action or omission occurs which, taken with the other actions or omissions, is sufficient to constitute the wrongful act.

2. In such a case, the breach extends over the entire period starting with the first of the actions or omissions of the series and lasts for as long as these actions or omissions are repeated and remain not in conformity with the international obligation.

Chapter IV
Responsibility of an international organization in connection with the act of a State or another international organization

Article 14
Aid or assistance in the commission of an internationally wrongful act

An international organization which aids or assists a State or another international organization in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by the State or the latter organization is internationally responsible for doing so if:

(*a*) The former organization does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act; and

(*b*) The act would be internationally wrongful if committed by that organization.

Article 15
Direction and control exercised over the commission of an internationally wrongful act

An international organization which directs and controls a State or another international organization in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by the State or the latter organization is internationally responsible for that act if:

(*a*) The former organization does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act; and

(*b*) The act would be internationally wrongful if committed by that organization.

Article 16
Coercion of a State or another international organization

An international organization which coerces a State or another international organization to commit an act is internationally responsible for that act if:

(*a*) The act would, but for the coercion, be an internationally wrongful act of the coerced State or international organization; and

(*b*) The coercing international organization does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the act.

Article 17
Circumvention of international obligations through decisions and authorizations addressed to members

1. An international organization incurs international responsibility if it circumvents one of its international obligations by adopting a decision binding member States or international organizations to commit an act that would be internationally wrongful if committed by the former organization.

2. An international organization incurs international responsibility if it circumvents one of its international obligations by authorizing member States or international organizations to commit an act that would be internationally wrongful if committed by the former organization and the act in question is committed because of that authorization.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 apply whether or not the act in question is internationally wrongful for the member States or international organizations to which the decision or authorization is addressed.

Article 18
Responsibility of an international organization member of another international organization

Without prejudice to articles 14 to 17, the international responsibility of an international organization that is a member of another international organization also arises in relation to an act of the latter under the conditions set out in articles 61 and 62 for States that are members of an international organization.

Article 19
Effect of this Chapter

This Chapter is without prejudice to the international responsibility of the State or international organization which commits the act in question, or of any other State or international organization.

Chapter V
Circumstances precluding wrongfulness

Article 20
Consent

Valid consent by a State or an international organization to the commission of a given act by another international organization precludes the wrongfulness of that act in relation to that State or the former organization to the extent that the act remains within the limits of that consent.

Article 21
Self-defence

The wrongfulness of an act of an international organization is precluded if and to the extent that the act constitutes a lawful measure of self-defence under international law.

Article 22
Countermeasures

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3, the wrongfulness of an act of an international organization not in conformity with an international obligation towards a State or another international organization is precluded if and to the extent that the act constitutes a countermeasure taken in accordance with the substantive and procedural conditions required by international law, including those set forth in Chapter II of Part Four for countermeasures taken against another international organization.

2. Subject to paragraph 3, an international organization may not take countermeasures against a responsible member State or international organization unless:

(*a*) The conditions referred to in paragraph 1 are met;

(*b*) The countermeasures are not inconsistent with the rules of the organization; and

(*c*) No appropriate means are available for otherwise inducing compliance with the obligations of the responsible State or international organization concerning cessation of the breach and reparation.

3. Countermeasures may not be taken by an international organization against a member State or international organization in response to a breach of an international obligation under the rules of the organization unless such countermeasures are provided for by those rules.

Article 23
Force majeure

1. The wrongfulness of an act of an international organization not in conformity with an international obligation of that organization is precluded if the act is due to force majeure, that is, the occurrence of an irresistible force or of an unforeseen event, beyond the control of the organization, making it materially impossible in the circumstances to perform the obligation.

2. Paragraph 1 does not apply if:

(*a*) The situation of force majeure is due, either alone or in combination with other factors, to the conduct of the organization invoking it; or

(*b*) The organization has assumed the risk of that situation occurring.

Article 24
Distress

1. The wrongfulness of an act of an international organization not in conformity with an international obligation of that organization is precluded if the author of the act in question has no other reasonable way, in a situation of distress, of saving the author's life or the lives of other persons entrusted to the author's care.

2. Paragraph 1 does not apply if:

(*a*) The situation of distress is due, either alone or in combination with other factors, to the conduct of the organization invoking it; or

(*b*) The act in question is likely to create a comparable or greater peril.

Article 25
Necessity

1. Necessity may not be invoked by an international organization as a ground for precluding the wrongfulness of an act not in conformity with an international obligation of that organization unless the act:

(*a*) Is the only means for the organization to safeguard against a grave and imminent peril an essential interest of its member States or of the international community as a whole, when the organization has, in accordance with international law, the function to protect the interest in question; and

(*b*) Does not seriously impair an essential interest of the State or States towards which the international obligation exists, or of the international community as a whole.

2. In any case, necessity may not be invoked by an international organization as a ground for precluding wrongfulness if:

(*a*) The international obligation in question excludes the possibility of invoking necessity; or

(*b*) The organization has contributed to the situation of necessity.

Article 26
Compliance with peremptory norms

Nothing in this Chapter precludes the wrongfulness of any act of an international organization which is not in conformity with an obligation arising under a peremptory norm of general international law.

Article 27
Consequences of invoking a circumstance precluding wrongfulness

The invocation of a circumstance precluding wrongfulness in accordance with this Chapter is without prejudice to:

(*a*) Compliance with the obligation in question, if and to the extent that the circumstance precluding wrongfulness no longer exists;

(*b*) The question of compensation for any material loss caused by the act in question.

Part Three
Content of the international responsibility of an international organization

Chapter I
General principles

Article 28
Legal consequences of an internationally wrongful act

The international responsibility of an international organization which is entailed by an internationally wrongful act in accordance with the provisions of Part Two involves legal consequences as set out in this Part.

Article 29
Continued duty of performance

The legal consequences of an internationally wrongful act under this Part do not affect the continued duty of the responsible international organization to perform the obligation breached.

Article 30
Cessation and non-repetition

The international organization responsible for the internationally wrongful act is under an obligation:

(*a*) To cease that act, if it is continuing;

(*b*) To offer appropriate assurances and guarantees of non-repetition, if circumstances so require.

Article 31
Reparation

1. The responsible international organization is under an obligation to make full reparation for the injury caused by the internationally wrongful act.

2. Injury includes any damage, whether material or moral, caused by the internationally wrongful act of an international organization.

Article 32
Relevance of the rules of the organization

1. The responsible international organization may not rely on its rules as justification for failure to comply with its obligations under this Part.

2. Paragraph 1 is without prejudice to the applicability of the rules of an international organization to the relations between the organization and its member States and organizations.

Article 33
Scope of international obligations set out in this Part

1. The obligations of the responsible international organization set out in this Part may be owed to one or more States, to one or more other organizations, or to the international community as a whole, depending in particular on the character and content of the international obligation and on the circumstances of the breach.

2. This Part is without prejudice to any right, arising from the international responsibility of an international organization, which may accrue directly to any person or entity other than a State or an international organization.

Chapter II
Reparation for injury

Article 34
Forms of reparation

Full reparation for the injury caused by the internationally wrongful act shall take the form of restitution, compensation and satisfaction, either singly or in combination, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Article 35
Restitution

An international organization responsible for an internationally wrongful act is under an obligation to make restitution, that is, to re-establish the situation which existed before the wrongful act was committed, provided and to the extent that restitution:

(*a*) Is not materially impossible;

(*b*) Does not involve a burden out of all proportion to the benefit deriving from restitution instead of compensation.

Article 36
Compensation

1. The international organization responsible for an internationally wrongful act is under an obligation to

compensate for the damage caused thereby, insofar as such damage is not made good by restitution.

2. The compensation shall cover any financially assessable damage, including loss of profits insofar as it is established.

Article 37
Satisfaction

1. The international organization responsible for an internationally wrongful act is under an obligation to give satisfaction for the injury caused by that act insofar as it cannot be made good by restitution or compensation.

2. Satisfaction may consist in an acknowledgement of the breach, an expression of regret, a formal apology or another appropriate modality.

3. Satisfaction shall not be out of proportion to the injury and may not take a form humiliating to the responsible international organization.

Article 38
Interest

1. Interest on any principal sum due under this Chapter shall be payable when necessary in order to ensure full reparation. The interest rate and mode of calculation shall be set so as to achieve that result.

2. Interest runs from the date when the principal sum should have been paid until the date the obligation to pay is fulfilled.

Article 39
Contribution to the injury

In the determination of reparation, account shall be taken of the contribution to the injury by wilful or negligent action or omission of the injured State or international organization or of any person or entity in relation to whom reparation is sought.

Article 40
Ensuring the fulfilment of the obligation to make reparation

1. The responsible international organization shall take all appropriate measures in accordance with its rules to ensure that its members provide it with the means for effectively fulfilling its obligations under this Chapter.

2. The members of a responsible international organization shall take all the appropriate measures that may be required by the rules of the organization in order to enable the organization to fulfil its obligations under this Chapter.

Chapter III
Serious breaches of obligations under peremptory norms of general international law

Article 41
Application of this Chapter

1. This Chapter applies to the international responsibility which is entailed by a serious breach by an international organization of an obligation arising under a peremptory norm of general international law.

2. A breach of such an obligation is serious if it involves a gross or systematic failure by the responsible international organization to fulfil the obligation.

Article 42
Particular consequences of a serious breach of an obligation under this Chapter

1. States and international organizations shall cooperate to bring to an end through lawful means any serious breach within the meaning of article 41.

2. No State or international organization shall recognize as lawful a situation created by a serious breach within the meaning of article 41, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation.

3. Article 42 is without prejudice to the other consequences referred to in this Part and to such further consequences that a breach to which this Chapter applies may entail under international law.

Part Four
The implementation of the international responsibility of an international organization

Chapter I
Invocation of the responsibility of an international organization

Article 43
Invocation of responsibility by an injured State or international organization

A State or an international organization is entitled as an injured State or an injured international organization to invoke the responsibility of another international organization if the obligation breached is owed to:

(*a*) That State or the former international organization individually;

(*b*) A group of States or international organizations including that State or the former international organization, or the international community as a whole, and the breach of the obligation:

(i) Specially affects that State or that international organization; or

(ii) Is of such a character as radically to change the position of all the other States and international organizations to which the obligation is owed with respect to the further performance of the obligation.

Article 44
Notice of claim by an injured State or international organization

1. An injured State or international organization which invokes the responsibility of another international organization shall give notice of its claim to that organization.

2. The injured State or international organization may specify in particular:

(*a*) The conduct that the responsible international organization should take in order to cease the wrongful act, if it is continuing;

(*b*) What form reparation should take in accordance with the provisions of Part Three.

Article 45
Admissibility of claims

1. An injured State may not invoke the responsibility of an international organization if the claim is not brought in accordance with any applicable rule relating to the nationality of claims.

2. When the rule of exhaustion of local remedies applies to a claim, an injured State or international organization may not invoke the responsibility of another international organization if any available and effective remedy has not been exhausted.

Article 46
Loss of the right to invoke responsibility

The responsibility of an international organization may not be invoked if:

(*a*) The injured State or international organization has validly waived the claim;

(*b*) The injured State or international organization is to be considered as having, by reason of its conduct, validly acquiesced in the lapse of the claim.

Article 47
Plurality of injured States or international organizations

Where several States or international organizations are injured by the same internationally wrongful act of an international organization, each injured State or international organization may separately invoke the responsibility of the international organization for the internationally wrongful act.

Article 48
Responsibility of an international organization and one or more States or international organizations

1. Where an international organization and one or more States or other international organizations are responsible for the same internationally wrongful act, the responsibility of each State or organization may be invoked in relation to that act.

2. Subsidiary responsibility may be invoked insofar as the invocation of the primary responsibility has not led to reparation.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2:

(*a*) Do not permit any injured State or international organization to recover, by way of compensation, more than the damage it has suffered;

(*b*) Are without prejudice to any right of recourse that the State or international organization providing reparation may have against the other responsible States or international organizations.

Article 49
Invocation of responsibility by a State or an international organization other than an injured State or international organization

1. A State or an international organization other than an injured State or international organization is entitled to invoke the responsibility of another international organization in accordance with paragraph 4 if the obligation breached is owed to a group of States or international organizations, including the State or organization that invokes responsibility, and is established for the protection of a collective interest of the group.

2. A State other than an injured State is entitled to invoke the responsibility of an international organization in accordance with paragraph 4 if the obligation breached is owed to the international community as a whole.

3. An international organization other than an injured international organization is entitled to invoke the responsibility of another international organization in accordance with paragraph 4 if the obligation breached is owed to the international community as a whole and safeguarding the interest of the international community as a whole underlying the obligation breached is within the functions of the international organization invoking responsibility.

4. A State or an international organization entitled to invoke responsibility under paragraphs 1 to 3 may claim from the responsible international organization:

(*a*) Cessation of the internationally wrongful act, and assurances and guarantees of non-repetition in accordance with article 30; and

(*b*) Performance of the obligation of reparation in accordance with Part Three, in the interest of the injured State or international organization or of the beneficiaries of the obligation breached.

5. The requirements for the invocation of responsibility by an injured State or international organization under articles 44, 45, paragraph 2, and 46 apply to an invocation of responsibility by a State or international organization entitled to do so under paragraphs 1 to 4.

Article 50
Scope of this Chapter

This Chapter is without prejudice to the entitlement that a person or entity other than a State or an international organization may have to invoke the international responsibility of an international organization.

Chapter II
Countermeasures

Article 51
Object and limits of countermeasures

1. An injured State or an injured international organization may only take countermeasures against an international organization which is responsible for an internationally wrongful act in order to induce that organization to comply with its obligations under Part Three.

2. Countermeasures are limited to the non-performance for the time being of international obligations of the State or international organization taking the measures towards the responsible international organization.

3. Countermeasures shall, as far as possible, be taken in such a way as to permit the resumption of performance of the obligations in question.

4. Countermeasures shall, as far as possible, be taken in such a way as to limit their effects on the exercise by the responsible international organization of its functions.

Article 52
Conditions for taking countermeasures by members of an international organization

1. Subject to paragraph 2, an injured State or international organization which is a member of a responsible international organization may not take countermeasures against that organization unless:

(*a*) The conditions referred to in article 51 are met;

(*b*) The countermeasures are not inconsistent with the rules of the organization; and

(*c*) No appropriate means are available for otherwise inducing compliance with the obligations of the responsible international organization concerning cessation of the breach and reparation.

2. Countermeasures may not be taken by an injured State or international organization which is a member of a responsible international organization against that organization in response to a breach of an international obligation under the rules of the organization unless such countermeasures are provided for by those rules.

Article 53
Obligations not affected by countermeasures

1. Countermeasures shall not affect:

(*a*) The obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force as embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

(*b*) Obligations for the protection of human rights;

(*c*) Obligations of a humanitarian character prohibiting reprisals;

(*d*) Other obligations under peremptory norms of general international law.

2. An injured State or international organization taking countermeasures is not relieved from fulfilling its obligations:

(*a*) Under any dispute settlement procedure applicable between it and the responsible international organization;

(*b*) To respect any inviolability of organs or agents of the responsible international organization and of the premises, archives and documents of that organization.

Article 54
Proportionality of countermeasures

Countermeasures must be commensurate with the injury suffered, taking into account the gravity of the internationally wrongful act and the rights in question.

Article 55
Conditions relating to resort to countermeasures

1. Before taking countermeasures, an injured State or international organization shall:

(*a*) Call upon the responsible international organization, in accordance with article 44, to fulfil its obligations under Part Three;

(*b*) Notify the responsible international organization of any decision to take countermeasures and offer to negotiate with that organization.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 (*b*), the injured State or international organization may take such urgent countermeasures as are necessary to preserve its rights.

3. Countermeasures may not be taken and, if already taken, must be suspended without undue delay if:

(*a*) The internationally wrongful act has ceased; and

(*b*) The dispute is pending before a court or tribunal which has the authority to make decisions binding on the parties.

4. Paragraph 3 does not apply if the responsible international organization fails to implement the dispute settlement procedures in good faith.

Article 56
Termination of countermeasures

Countermeasures shall be terminated as soon as the responsible international organization has complied with its obligations under Part Three in relation to the internationally wrongful act.

Article 57
Measures taken by States or international organizations other than an injured State or organization

This Chapter does not prejudice the right of any State or international organization, entitled under article 49, paragraphs 1 to 3, to invoke the responsibility of another international organization, to take lawful measures against that organization to ensure cessation of the breach and reparation in the interest of the injured State or organization or of the beneficiaries of the obligation breached.

Part Five
Responsibility of a State in connection with the conduct of an international organization

Article 58
Aid or assistance by a State in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by an international organization

1. A State which aids or assists an international organization in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by the latter is internationally responsible for doing so if:

(*a*) The State does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act; and

(*b*) The act would be internationally wrongful if committed by that State.

2. An act by a State member of an international organization done in accordance with the rules of the organization does not as such engage the international responsibility of that State under the terms of article 58.

Article 59
Direction and control exercised by a State over the commission of an internationally wrongful act by an international organization

1. A State which directs and controls an international organization in the commission of an internationally wrongful act by the latter is internationally responsible for that act if:

(*a*) The State does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the internationally wrongful act; and

(*b*) The act would be internationally wrongful if committed by that State.

2. An act by a State member of an international organization done in accordance with the rules of the organization does not as such engage the international responsibility of that State under the terms of article 59.

Article 60
Coercion of an international organization by a State

A State which coerces an international organization to commit an act is internationally responsible for that act if:

(*a*) The act would, but for the coercion, be an internationally wrongful act of the coerced international organization; and

(*b*) The coercing State does so with knowledge of the circumstances of the act.

Article 61
Circumvention of international obligations of a State member of an international organization

1. A State member of an international organization incurs international responsibility if, by taking advantage of the fact that the organization has competence in relation to the subject matter of one of the State's international obligations, it circumvents that obligation by causing the organization to commit an act that, if committed by the State, would have constituted a breach of the obligation.

2. Paragraph 1 applies whether or not the act in question is internationally wrongful for the international organization.

Article 62
Responsibility of a State member of an international organization for an internationally wrongful act of that organization

1. A State member of an international organization is responsible for an internationally wrongful act of that organization if:

(*a*) It has accepted responsibility for that act towards the injured party; or

(*b*) It has led the injured party to rely on its responsibility.

2. Any international responsibility of a State under paragraph 1 is presumed to be subsidiary.

Article 63
Effect of this Part

This Part is without prejudice to the international responsibility of the international organization which commits the act in question, or of any State or other international organization.

Part Six
General provisions

Article 64
Lex specialis

These articles do not apply where and to the extent that the conditions for the existence of an internationally wrongful act or the content or implementation of the international responsibility of an international organization, or of a State in connection with the conduct of an international organization, are governed by special rules of international law. Such special rules of international law may be contained in the rules of the organization applicable to the relations between an international organization and its members.

Article 65
Questions of international responsibility not regulated by these articles

The applicable rules of international law continue to govern questions concerning the responsibility of an international organization or a State for an internationally wrongful act to the extent that they are not regulated by these articles.

Article 66
Individual responsibility

These articles are without prejudice to any question of the individual responsibility under international law of any person acting on behalf of an international organization or a State.

Article 67
Charter of the United Nations

These articles are without prejudice to the Charter of the United Nations.

RESOLUTION 66/101

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/474, para. 8)[63]

66/101. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

Recalling also its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,[64]

Recalling the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

Recalling also its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

Concerned about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter of the United Nations to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Council,

Recalling the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

Recalling also that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

Mindful of the adoption of the revised working papers on the working methods of the Special Committee,[65]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*",[66]

Taking note also of paragraphs 106 to 110, 176 and 177 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[67]

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[63] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Bureau.

[64] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/63/47).

[65] Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/61/33), para. 72.

[66] A/66/201.

[67] See resolution 60/1.

Mindful of the decision of the Special Committee in which it expressed its readiness to engage, as appropriate, in the implementation of any decisions that might be taken at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concerned the Charter and any amendments thereto,[68]

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996, 52/162 of 15 December 1997, 53/107 of 8 December 1998, 54/107 of 9 December 1999, 55/157 of 12 December 2000, 56/87 of 12 December 2001, 57/25 of 19 November 2002, 58/80 of 9 December 2003 and 59/45 of 2 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009 and the document entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations" annexed thereto,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 2011,[69]

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Special Committee to encourage States to focus on the need to prevent and to settle peacefully their disputes which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;[69]

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee shall hold its next session from 21 to 28 February and on 1 March 2012;

3. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 2012, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995:

(*a*) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2012;

(*b*) To continue to consider, on a priority basis and in an appropriate substantive manner and framework, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter based on all of the related reports of the Secretary-General[70] and the proposals submitted on the question;

(*c*) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(*d*) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

(*e*) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;

4. *Invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2012, to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations;

5. *Notes* the readiness of the Special Committee to provide, within its mandate, such assistance as may be sought at the request of other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in relation to any issues before them;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

7. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, as well as the importance of having recourse to the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, takes note, consistent with Article 96 of the Charter, of the Court's advisory jurisdiction that may be requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council or other authorized organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to distribute, in due course, the advisory opinions requested by the principal organs of the United Nations as official documents of the United Nations;

8. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the increased use of the internship programme of the United Nations and further expanded cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

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[68] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/60/33), para. 77.

[69] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/66/33).

[70] A/48/573-S/26705, A/49/356, A/50/60-S/1995/1, A/50/361, A/50/423, A/51/317, A/52/308, A/53/312, A/54/383 and Add.1, A/55/295 and Add.1, A/56/303, A/57/165 and Add.1, A/58/346, A/59/334, A/60/320, A/61/304, A/62/206 and Corr.1, A/63/224, A/64/225, A/65/217 and A/66/213.

9. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*, as well as the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory*;

10. *Reiterates its call for* voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*, voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* so as to further support the Secretariat in carrying out the effective elimination of that backlog, as well as the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis, and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions and to continue to address, in particular, the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory*;

12. *Reiterates* the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, and, with regard to the *Repertoire*, calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of the report of the Secretary-General of 18 September 1952;[71]

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, a report on both the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Special Committee at its next session on the information referred to in paragraph 11 of his report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;[72]

15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization", a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

RESOLUTION 66/102

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/475, para. 8)[73]

66/102. The rule of law at the national and international levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/32 of 6 December 2010,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating its determination to foster strict respect for them and to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

Reaffirming that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels and its solemn commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which, together with the principles of justice, is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Convinced that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with the Charter and international law, against transnational threats,

Reaffirming the duty of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, and calling upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with its Statute,

Convinced that the promotion of and respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance, should guide the activities of the United Nations and of its Member States,

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[71] A/2170.

[72] A/66/213.

[73] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Liechtenstein on behalf of the Bureau.

Recalling paragraph 134 (*e*) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[74]

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities;[75]

2. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification, and reaffirms further that States shall abide by all their obligations under international law;

3. *Reaffirms also* the imperative of upholding and promoting the rule of law at the international level in accordance with the principles of the Charter;

4. *Welcomes* the dialogue initiated by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit with Member States on the topic "Promoting the rule of law at the international level", and calls for the continuation of this dialogue with a view to fostering the rule of law at the international level;

5. *Stresses* the importance of adherence to the rule of law at the national level and the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building, based on greater coordination and coherence within the United Nations system and among donors, and reiterates its call for greater evaluation of the effectiveness of such activities, including possible measures to improve the effectiveness of those capacity-building activities;

6. *Calls*, in this context, for dialogue to be enhanced among all stakeholders with a view to placing national perspectives at the centre of rule of law assistance in order to strengthen national ownership;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to systematically address, as appropriate, aspects of the rule of law in relevant activities, including the participation of women in rule of law-related activities, recognizing the importance of the rule of law to virtually all areas of United Nations engagement;

8. *Expresses full support* for the overall coordination and coherence role of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group within the United Nations system within existing mandates, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, his next annual report on United Nations rule of law activities, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its resolution 63/128 of 11 December 2008;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of restoring confidence in the rule of law as a key element of transitional justice;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to accord high priority to rule of law activities;

12. *Invites* the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the International Law Commission to continue to comment, in their respective reports to the General Assembly, on their current roles in promoting the rule of law;

13. *Invites* the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit to continue to interact with Member States on a regular basis, in particular in informal briefings;

14. *Stresses* the need to provide the Rule of Law Unit with the necessary funding and staff in order to enable it to carry out its tasks in an effective and sustainable manner, and urges the Secretary-General and Member States to continue to support the functioning of the Unit;

15. *Recalls* its decision to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the topic "The rule of law at the national and international levels" during the high-level segment of its sixty-seventh session, and decides that the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting should be as follows:

(*a*) The high-level meeting will be held as a one-day plenary on Monday, 24 September 2012;

(*b*) The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the President of the International Court of Justice, the President of the Security Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Chair of the International Law Commission, Member States and observers, as well as a limited number of representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of the rule of law,[76] will be invited to speak at the plenary;

(*c*) The President of the General Assembly shall draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who will participate in the high-level meeting;

(*d*) The President of the General Assembly shall draw up a list of representatives of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations active in the field of the rule of law and, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, submit the list to

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[74] See resolution 60/1.

[75] A/66/133.

[76] To speak on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice.

Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis, for participation in the high-level meeting;

16. *Decides* that the high-level meeting will result in a concise outcome document, and requests the President of the General Assembly to produce a draft text, in consultation with Member States, and to convene inclusive informal consultations at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the meeting;

17. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, including the list of speakers for the plenary, taking into account the length of the high-level meeting, the level of representation, equitable geographical representation and the need to ensure that all listed speakers will have the opportunity to speak;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report for the consideration of Member States in preparation for the high-level meeting, no later than March 2012;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The rule of law at the national and international levels";

20. *Invites* Member States as well as the Secretary-General to suggest possible sub-topics for future Sixth Committee debates for inclusion in the forthcoming annual report, with a view to assisting the Sixth Committee in choosing future sub-topics.

RESOLUTION 66/103

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/476, para. 9)[77]

66/103. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to an international order based on the rule of law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Recalling its resolutions 64/117 of 16 December 2009 and 65/33 of 6 December 2010,

Taking into account the comments and observations of Governments and observers and the discussions held in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly, on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,[78]

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by States and the need for further consideration towards a better understanding of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,

Reiterating its commitment to fighting impunity, and noting the views expressed by States that the legitimacy and credibility of the use of universal jurisdiction are best ensured by its responsible and judicious application consistent with international law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared on the basis of comments and observations of Governments and relevant observers;[79]

2. *Decides* that the Sixth Committee shall continue its consideration of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, without prejudice to the consideration of this topic and related issues in other forums of the United Nations, and for this purpose decides to establish, at its sixty-seventh session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction;[80]

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant observers, as appropriate, to submit, before 30 April 2012, information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules and judicial practice, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, a report based on such information and observations;

4. *Decides* that the Working Group shall be open to all Member States and that relevant observers to the General Assembly will be invited to participate in the work of the Working Group;

5. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction".

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[77] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Bureau.

[78] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Sixth Committee*, 12th, 13th and 25th meetings (A/C.6/64/SR.12, 13 and 25), and corrigendum; ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Sixth Committee*, 10th to 12th, 27th and 28th meetings (A/C.6/65/SR.10–12, 27 and 28), and corrigendum; and ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Sixth Committee*, 12th, 13th, 17th and 29th meetings (A/C.6/66/SR.12, 13, 17 and 29), and corrigendum.

[79] A/66/93 and Add.1; see also A/65/181.

[80] The Working Group will take into account the informal working paper of the Working Group at the Sixty-sixth session (A/C.6/66/WG.3/1).

RESOLUTION 66/104

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/477, para. 7)[81]

66/104. The law of transboundary aquifers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/124 of 11 December 2008, in which it took note of the draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers formulated by the International Law Commission,

Noting the major importance of the subject of the law of transboundary aquifers in the relations of States and the need for reasonable and proper management of transboundary aquifers, a vitally important natural resource, through international cooperation,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (*a*), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking note of the comments of Governments and the discussions in the Sixth Committee at its sixty-third and sixty-sixth sessions on this topic,[82]

1. *Further encourages* the States concerned to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions of the draft articles annexed to its resolution 63/124;

2. *Encourages* the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, whose contribution was noted in resolution 63/124, to offer further scientific and technical assistance to the States concerned;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "The law of transboundary aquifers" and, in the light of written comments of Governments, as well as views expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee held at its sixty-third and sixty-sixth sessions, to continue to examine, inter alia, the question of the final form that might be given to the draft articles.

RESOLUTION 66/105

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/478, para. 11)[83]

66/105. Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, in all its aspects, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006,[84] enhancing the overall framework for the efforts of the international community to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling the first and second biennial review of the Strategy, on 4 and 5 September 2008 and on 8 September 2010, respectively, and the debates that were held on those occasions,[85]

Recalling the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[86]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[87]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[88] and reaffirming in particular the section on terrorism,

Recalling the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996,

Recalling also all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Convinced of the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly as the universal organ having competence to do so,

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[81] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Japan on behalf of the Bureau.

[82] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Sixth Committee*, 26th meeting (A/C.6/63/SR.26), and corrigendum; and ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Sixth Committee*, 16th and 29th meetings (A/C.6/66/SR.16 and 29), and corrigendum.

[83] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Canada on behalf of the Bureau.

[84] Resolution 60/288.

[85] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Plenary Meetings*, 117th to 120th meetings (A/62/PV.117–120), and corrigendum; and ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 116th and 117th meetings (A/64/PV.116 and 117), and corrigendum.

[86] See resolution 50/6.

[87] See resolution 55/2.

[88] See resolution 60/1.

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts which have been carried out worldwide,

Reaffirming its strong condemnation of the heinous acts of terrorism that have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage, including those which prompted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001, as well as Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001, and those that have occurred since,

Reaffirming also its strong condemnation of the atrocious and deliberate attacks that have occurred against United Nations offices in various parts of the world,

Affirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law and must adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Stressing the need to strengthen further international cooperation among States and among international organizations and agencies, regional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions,

Noting the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism in monitoring the implementation of that resolution, including the taking of the necessary financial, legal and technical measures by States and the ratification or acceptance of the relevant international conventions and protocols,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the Organization in this respect,

Mindful also of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Reiterating its call upon States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there is a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Emphasizing that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to this end,

Reaffirming that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005, and bearing in mind that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Taking note of recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism, including those of the African Union, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bali Counter-Terrorism Process, the Central American Integration System, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the Council of Europe, the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Free Trade Association, the European Union, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Group of Eight, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Southern African Development Community and the World Customs Organization,

Noting regional efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including through the elaboration of, and adherence to, regional conventions,

Recalling its decision in resolutions 54/110 of 9 December 1999, 55/158 of 12 December 2000, 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 57/27 of 19 November 2002, 58/81 of 9 December 2003, 59/46 of 2 December 2004, 60/43 of 8 December 2005, 61/40 of 4 December 2006, 62/71 of 6 December 2007, 63/129 of 11 December 2008, 64/118 of 16 December 2009 and 65/34 of 6 December 2010 that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 should address, and keep on its agenda, the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recalling also the Final Document of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the

Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 July 2009,[89] which reiterated the collective position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on terrorism and reaffirmed its previous initiative calling for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,[90] as well as other relevant initiatives,

Aware of its resolutions 57/219 of 18 December 2002, 58/187 of 22 December 2003, 59/191 of 20 December 2004, 60/158 of 16 December 2005, 61/171 of 19 December 2006, 62/159 of 18 December 2007, 63/185 of 18 December 2008, 64/168 of 18 December 2009 and 65/221 of 21 December 2010,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[91] the report of the Ad Hoc Committee[92] and the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group established by the Sixth Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly,[93]

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[84] as well as the resolutions relating to the first and second biennial review of the Strategy,[94] in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels without delay, including by mobilizing resources and expertise;

3. *Recalls* the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy, looks forward to the third biennial review and in this regard recalls its invitation to the Secretary-General to contribute to the future deliberations of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General when doing so to provide information on relevant activities within the Secretariat to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

4. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

5. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider in particular the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (*a*) to (*f*) of General Assembly resolution 51/210;

6. *Also reiterates its call upon* all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

8. *Expresses concern* at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions by terrorist groups, and expresses the need to address this issue;

9. *Urges* States to ensure that their nationals or other persons and entities within their territory that wilfully provide or collect funds for the benefit of persons or entities who commit, or attempt to commit, facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts are punished by penalties consistent with the grave nature of such acts;

10. *Reminds* States of their obligations under relevant international conventions and protocols and Security Council resolutions, including Council resolution 1373 (2001), to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to justice;

11. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation as well as actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international conventions;

12. *Recalls* the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,[95] the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,[96] the Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation[97] and the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol

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[89] A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[90] See A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I, paras. 149–162.

[91] A/66/96 and Add.1.

[92] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/66/37).

[93] Ibid., *Sixth Committee*, 28th meeting (A/C.6/66/SR.28), and corrigendum.

[94] Resolutions 62/272 and 64/297.

[95] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

[96] Adopted on 8 July 2005 by the Conference to Consider and Adopt Proposed Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

[97] Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (LEG/CONF.15/21).

for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[98] and urges all States to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to these instruments;

13. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and Council resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols as referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/210, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,[99] the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,[100] the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, the domestic legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those conventions and protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to other States and relevant international and regional organizations to that end;

14. *Urges* States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and with one another, as well as with interested intergovernmental organizations, with a view to ensuring, where appropriate within existing mandates, that technical and other expert advice is provided to those States requiring and requesting assistance in becoming parties to and implementing the conventions and protocols referred to in paragraph 13 above;

15. *Notes with appreciation and satisfaction* that, consistent with the call contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 65/34, a number of States became parties to the relevant conventions and protocols referred to therein, thereby realizing the objective of wider acceptance and implementation of those conventions;

16. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism[101] and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,[102] and calls upon all States to implement them;

17. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;

18. *Urges* all States and the Secretary-General, in their efforts to prevent international terrorism, to make the best use of the existing institutions of the United Nations;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution agreement to launch the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre signed between the United Nations and Saudi Arabia on 19 September 2011, established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

20. *Requests* the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building;

21. *Welcomes* the current efforts by the Secretariat to prepare the third edition of the publication *International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism* in all official languages;

22. *Invites* regional intergovernmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted at the regional level to eliminate international terrorism, as well as on intergovernmental meetings held by those organizations;

23. *Notes* the progress made in the elaboration of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and of the Working Group established by the Sixth Committee during the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, and welcomes continuing efforts to that end;

24. *Decides* that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, will establish a working group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continuing to discuss the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations;

25. *Also decides* to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee in 2013, as appropriate, on dates to be decided at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in order to, on an expedited basis, continue to elaborate the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continue to discuss the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations;

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[98] Adopted on 14 October 2005 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the SUA Treaties (LEG/CONF.15/22).

[99] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2149, No. 37517.

[100] Ibid., vol. 2178, No. 38349.

[101] Resolution 49/60, annex.

[102] Resolution 51/210, annex.

26. *Encourages* all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period towards resolving any outstanding issues;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

RESOLUTION 66/106

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/481, para. 14)[103]

66/106. Code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/228 of 22 December 2007, in which it decided that the Internal Justice Council should draft a code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, for consideration by the General Assembly,

Recalling also the invitation, made in the relevant resolutions, to the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the administration of justice at the United Nations, without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

Having considered the reports of the Internal Justice Council submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth[104] and sixty-sixth[105] sessions, which contain in the annexes thereto the draft text of a code of conduct for the judges of the Tribunals,

Expressing its appreciation to the Internal Justice Council for preparing the draft code of conduct for the judges,

Approves the code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

Preamble

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations affirms, inter alia, the determination of Member States to establish conditions under which justice can be maintained to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination,

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes as fundamental the principle that everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of rights and obligations,

Whereas this right is endorsed and elaborated upon in a range of important international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Whereas the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 61/261 of 4 April 2007, decided to establish an independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike,

Whereas the fair resolution of employment grievances will contribute to efficiency in the work carried out by the United Nations and enhance the integrity of the Organization,

Whereas public confidence in the internal justice system and in the moral authority and integrity of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal is of the utmost importance within the working environment of the United Nations,

Whereas it is essential that judges, individually and collectively, respect and honour judicial office as a public trust, and strive to enhance and maintain confidence in the internal justice system,

And whereas the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary are designed to secure and promote the independence of judicial bodies, and can provide guidance for the internal administration of justice,

The following values and principles are adopted to establish standards for the conduct of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, to provide guidance to those judges and also to assist the staff and management of the United Nations to better understand and support the work of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal within the United Nations:

1. Independence

(*a*) Judges must uphold the independence and integrity of the internal justice system of the United Nations and must act independently in the performance of their duties, free of any inappropriate influences, inducements, pressures or threats from any party or quarter;

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[103] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Bureau.

[104] A/65/86.

[105] A/66/158.

(*b*) In order to protect the institutional independence of the Tribunals, judges must take all reasonable steps to ensure that no person, party, institution or State interferes, directly or indirectly, with the Tribunals;

2. Impartiality

(*a*) Judges must act without fear, favour, or prejudice in all matters that they adjudicate;

(*b*) Judges must ensure that their conduct at all times maintains the confidence of all in the impartiality of the Tribunals;

(*c*) Judges must recuse themselves from a case if:

(i) They have a conflict of interest;

(ii) It may reasonably appear to a properly informed person that they have a conflict of interest;

(iii) They have personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceedings;

(*d*) Judges must not recuse themselves on insubstantial grounds. Judges must provide reasons when they decide an application for recusal;

(*e*) Judges must disclose to the parties in good time any matter that could reasonably be perceived to give rise to an application for recusal in a particular matter;

(*f*) Judges must not participate in the determination of a case in which any member of their family is a litigant or represents a litigant, or in the outcome of which any member of their family has a significant interest;

(g) In order to determine whether they should recuse themselves from any matter, judges must be aware of their personal and fiduciary financial interests and shall, as far as reasonably possible, make efforts to be informed about the financial interests of members of their immediate family;

(*h*) (i) Judges must not directly or indirectly negotiate or accept any remuneration, income, compensation, gift, advantage or privilege that is incompatible with judicial office or that can reasonably be perceived either as a reward or as likely to influence them in favour of a particular party;

(ii) Judges may receive a token gift, decoration, award or benefit that does not result in the incompatibility or reasonable perception referred to in subparagraph (*h*) (i) above;

(*i*) Judges must not engage in financial, political or business dealings or activities, including fund-raising activities, that are inconsistent with, and reflect adversely upon, the independence and impartiality required by their status as judges, that may reasonably be perceived to exploit the judge's judicial position, or that are in any other way incompatible with judicial office in the United Nations;

3. Integrity

(*a*) Judges must be of high moral character and always, and not only in the discharge of their duties, act honourably and in accordance with the values and principles set out in the present Code;

(*b*) Judges at all times, including periods when they are not on official business, must comply with the law of the country in which they live, work or visit;

(*c*) Judges must inform the presiding judge of their Tribunal should they suffer from an illness or other condition that might threaten the performance of their duties;

4. Propriety

(*a*) Judges must exhibit and promote high standards of judicial conduct to reinforce confidence in the integrity of the administration of justice at the United Nations;

(*b*) Save in the discharge of judicial office, judges must not comment publicly on the merits of any case pending before the Tribunals or make any comment that might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome of such proceedings or impair the manifest fairness of the process;

(*c*) Judges are bound by professional duties of confidentiality with regard to deliberations with judicial colleagues and confidential information acquired in the course of their duties;

(*d*) Judges, like other citizens, are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly, but must exercise these freedoms with due regard to the values and principles set out in the present Code;

(*e*) Judges must not use or lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge, a member of the judge's family or anyone else, nor shall judges convey the impression that anyone is in a position to influence them improperly;

(*f*) In their personal relations with individual staff members who are parties, legal representatives and others who appear regularly in the Tribunal presided over by them, judges must avoid situations which might give rise to the reasonable apprehension of favouritism or partiality;

(*g*) Full-time judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal must not practise law, but may give informal advice to family members, friends, charitable organizations and the like without remuneration;

(*h*) Judges should use their best endeavours to foster collegiality in the Tribunals. In so doing they must act courteously and respect the dignity of others, including members of the Tribunal staff;

(*i*) Judges may form or join associations of judges;

(*j*) Subject to the proper and effective performance of judicial duties, a judge may engage in any lawful activity as long as it does not bring the judicial office in the United Nations into disrepute in the mind of reasonable members of the community;

5. Transparency

Judges must observe the principle of open justice, namely that justice must be seen to be done, and take reasonable steps to ensure that this principle is honoured in the manner in which cases before the Tribunals are handled;

6. Fairness in the conduct of proceedings

(*a*) Judges must resolve disputes by making findings of fact and applying the appropriate law in fair proceedings. This includes the duty to:

(i) Observe the letter and spirit of the *audi alteram partem* ("hear the other side") rule;

(ii) Remain manifestly impartial;

(iii) Publish reasons for any decision;

(*b*) Judges must not conduct themselves in a manner that is racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory. They must uphold and respect the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Judges must not by word or conduct unfairly discriminate against any individual or group of individuals, or abuse the power and authority vested in them;

(*c*) Judges must not permit Tribunal staff or legal representatives appearing before the Tribunals, or others under their direction or control, to act in a manner that is racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory;

(*d*) Judges have a duty to protect witnesses and parties from harassment and bullying during Tribunal proceedings;

(*e*) When conducting judicial proceedings, judges must act courteously to legal representatives, parties, witnesses, Tribunal staff, judicial colleagues and the public, and require them to act courteously;

7. Competence and diligence

(*a*) Judges must perform all assigned judicial duties, including tasks relevant to the judicial office or the operation of the Tribunals, diligently and dispose of judicial work promptly in an efficient and professional manner;

(*b*) Judges must give judgement or rulings in a case promptly. Judgements should be given no later than three months from the end of the hearing or the close of pleadings or, in the case of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, from the end of the session in which the matter is decided, unless there are exceptional circumstances;

(*c*) Judges must cooperate with any formal inquiry into their conduct in office;

(*d*) Judges must not engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of justice or the work of the Tribunal;

(*e*) When engaged in the administration of justice, judges must attend chambers during their normal working hours, as determined by the members of the Tribunal, and attend hearings and deliberations of the Tribunal during stipulated hours, unless they have a good reason not to do so. Judges must inform the presiding judge of the Tribunal in advance if they need to be absent. If they are to be absent for longer than three days, they must obtain the approval of the presiding judge of their Tribunal;

(*f*) Judges must respect and comply with the reasonable administrative requests of the presiding judge of the Tribunal of which they are members;

(*g*) Judges must take reasonable steps to maintain the necessary level of professional competence and to keep themselves informed about relevant developments in international administrative and employment law, as well as international human rights norms;

(*h*) Judges' judicial duties must take precedence over other duties and activities.

RESOLUTION 66/107

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/481, para. 14)[106]

66/107. Amendments to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/253 of 24 December 2008, in which it adopted the statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, as set out in annexes I and II to that resolution,

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[106] The draft resolution recommended in the report was introduced in the Committee by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Bureau.

Recalling also article 7, paragraph 1, of the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and article 6, paragraph 1, of the statute of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal,

Recalling further article 37, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal,[107] as well as article 32, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal,[108]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[109]

1. *Approves* the amendments to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* not to approve the amendment to article 19 (Case management) of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal contained in annex I of document A/66/86 and adopted by the Tribunal on 14 December 2010 in accordance with article 37, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure.

Annex

Amendments to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

Article 4
Panels

2. When the President or any two judges sitting on a particular case consider that the case so warrants, the case shall be heard by the whole Appeals Tribunal. If there is a tie in the voting by the judges of the whole Appeals Tribunal, the President shall have a casting vote.

Article 9
Answers, cross-appeals and answers to cross-appeals

4. Within 45 days of notification of the appeal, a party answering the appeal may file a cross-appeal, accompanied by a brief which shall not exceed 15 pages, with the Appeals Tribunal stating the relief sought and the grounds of the cross-appeal. The cross-appeal may not add new claims.

6. The provisions of article 9.1 to 9.3 and 9.5 apply, mutatis mutandis, to a cross-appeal and answer to a cross-appeal.

Article 18 bis
Case management

1. The President may, at any time, either on a motion of a party or of his or her own volition, issue any order which appears to be appropriate for the fair and expeditious management of the case and to do justice to the parties.

2. If, before the opening date of the session during which the case is to be considered, the appellant informs the Appeals Tribunal, in writing, with notice to the respondent, that he or she wishes to discontinue the proceedings, the President may order the case to be removed from the register.

3. If an action has become devoid of purpose and there is no longer any need to adjudicate it, the President may, at any time, of his or her own volition, after having informed the parties of that intention and, if applicable, received their observations, adopt a reasoned order.

4. The President may designate a judge or a panel of judges to issue any order within the purview of the present article.

Article 19
Adoption and issuance of judgements

2. Judgements shall be issued in writing and shall state the reasons, facts and law on which they are based. Summary judgements may be issued at any time, even when the Appeals Tribunal is not in session. They shall be adopted by panels of three judges designated by the President.

RESOLUTION 66/108

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/482, para. 8)[110]

66/108. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[111]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[112] the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[113] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recalling also that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,

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[107] Resolution 64/119, annex I.

[108] Ibid., annex II.

[109] A/66/86 and Add.1.

[110] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus.

[111] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/66/26).

[112] Resolution 22 A (I).

[113] See resolution 169 (II).

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 39 of its report;[111]

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which is an issue of great importance, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, and requests the host country to continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise and to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions; and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities and if violations occur to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

3. *Notes* the problems experienced by some permanent missions in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles,[114] and notes that the Committee shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

4. *Requests* the host country to consider removing the remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the long-standing positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

5. *Notes* the concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the denial and delay of entry visas to representatives of Member States;

6. *Also notes* that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance of entry visas, in a timely manner, to representatives of Member States, pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[113] to travel to New York on United Nations business, and that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts, including visa issuance, to facilitate the participation of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

7. *Further notes* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States, since this time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings;

8. *Notes* the concerns over the decision by JPMorgan Chase Bank to close all bank accounts held by Permanent Missions to the United Nations by 31 March 2011, and welcomes the efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for permanent missions with other financial institutions;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

10. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

12. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI);

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

RESOLUTION 66/109

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/484, para. 7)[115]

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[114] A/AC.154/355, annex.

[115] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

66/109. Observer status for the Union of South American Nations in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Union of South American Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Union of South American Nations to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/110

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/485, para. 7)[116]

66/110. Observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Renewable Energy Agency,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Renewable Energy Agency to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/111

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/486, para. 7)[117]

66/111. Observer status for the Central European Initiative in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative,

1. *Decides* to invite the Central European Initiative to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/112

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/488, para. 7)[118]

66/112. Observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development,

1. *Decides* to invite the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

RESOLUTION 66/113

Adopted at the 82nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2011, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Committee (A/66/550, para. 8)[119]

66/113. Observer status for the West African Economic and Monetary Union in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the West African Economic and Monetary Union,

1. *Decides* to invite the West African Economic and Monetary Union to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

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[116] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

[117] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

[118] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Argentina, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Montenegro, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan and Uganda.

[119] The draft resolution recommended in the report was sponsored in the Committee by: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sudan and Togo.

Annex I

Allocation of agenda items[a]

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly:
   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee.
8. General debate.

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

9. Report of the Economic and Social Council.
10. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS.
11. Sport for peace and development:
    (*a*) Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal.
12. Global road safety crisis.
13. 2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.
14. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.
15. Culture of peace.
18. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference.
19. Sustainable development:
    (*e*) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.
27. Social development:
    (*b*) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

30. Report of the Security Council.
31. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.

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[a] Organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization.

32. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies.

33. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict.

34. Prevention of armed conflict:

    (*a*) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.

35. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.

36. The situation in the Middle East.

37. Question of Palestine.

38. The situation in Afghanistan.

39. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

40. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.

41. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

42. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

43. Question of Cyprus.

44. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

45. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

46. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

47. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.

48. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.

C. Development of Africa

63. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

    (*a*) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;

    (*b*) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

D. Promotion of human rights

64. Report of the Human Rights Council.

67. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:

    (*b*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

70. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:

    (*a*) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (*b*) Assistance to the Palestinian people;

    (*c*) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions.

71. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

72. Report of the International Court of Justice.

73. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

74. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

75. Report of the International Criminal Court.

76. Oceans and the law of the sea:

   (*a*) Oceans and the law of the sea;

   (*b*) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.

G. Disarmament

86. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

110. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

111. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.

112. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.

113. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

   (*a*) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

   (*b*) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;

   (*c*) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.

114. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

   (*a*) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

   (*b*) Election of the members of the International Law Commission;

   (*c*) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

   (*d*) Election of two members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.

115. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

   (*f*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

   (*g*) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit;

   (*h*) Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

   (*i*) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal;

   (*j*) Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

116. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.

117. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.

118. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

119. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

120. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

122. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

123. Strengthening of the United Nations system:

    (*a*) Strengthening of the United Nations system;

    (*b*) Central role of the United Nations system in global governance.

124. United Nations reform: measures and proposals.

125. Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme.

126. Global health and foreign policy.

127. International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

128. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

129. International residual mechanism for criminal tribunals.

130. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

135. Programme planning.

First Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

G. Disarmament

87. Reduction of military budgets:

    (*a*) Reduction of military budgets;

    (*b*) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

88. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.

89. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

90. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

91. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification.

92. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

93. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.

94. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

95. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

96. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

97. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.

98. General and complete disarmament:

    (*a*) Notification of nuclear tests;

    (*b*) Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

    (*c*) Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty);

    (*d*) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

    (*e*) Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms;

    (*f*) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;

    (*g*) Transparency in armaments;

    (*h*) Regional disarmament;

    (*i*) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

    (*j*) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

    (*k*) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

    (*l*) Relationship between disarmament and development;

    (*m*) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

    (*n*) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

    (*o*) Nuclear disarmament;

    (*p*) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

    (*q*) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

    (*r*) Reducing nuclear danger;

    (*s*) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

    (*t*) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

    (*u*) Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

    (*v*) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

    (*w*) United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

  (*x*) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

  (*y*) Missiles.

99. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

  (*a*) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

  (*b*) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

  (*c*) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

  (*d*) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

  (*e*) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

  (*f*) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

100. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

  (*a*) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

  (*b*) Report of the Disarmament Commission.

101. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

102. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

103. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

104. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

105. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

106. Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

135. Programme planning.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

49. Assistance in mine action.

50. Effects of atomic radiation.

51. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

52. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

53. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

54. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

55. Questions relating to information.

56. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

57. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

58. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

59. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

60. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

135. Programme planning.

Second Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

16. Information and communications technologies for development.

17. Macroeconomic policy questions:

    (*a*) International trade and development;

    (*b*) International financial system and development;

    (*c*) External debt sustainability and development;

    (*d*) Commodities.

18. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference.

19. Sustainable development:

    (*a*) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

    (*b*) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

    (*c*) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

    (*d*) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;

    (*e*) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(*f*) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(*g*) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session;

(*h*) Harmony with Nature;

(*i*) Sustainable mountain development;

(*j*) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.

20. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

21. Globalization and interdependence:

(*a*) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(*b*) Science and technology for development;

(*c*) Development cooperation with middle-income countries.

22. Groups of countries in special situations:

(*a*) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(*b*) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation.

23. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

(*a*) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017);

(*b*) Women in development;

(*c*) Human resources development.

24. Operational activities for development:

(*a*) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(*b*) South-South cooperation for development.

25. Agriculture development and food security.

26. Towards global partnerships.

29. People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

61. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

135. Programme planning.

Third Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

27. Social development:
    (*a*) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;
    (*b*) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;
    (*c*) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing.

28. Advancement of women:
    (*a*) Advancement of women;
    (*b*) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

62. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

D. Promotion of human rights

64. Report of the Human Rights Council.
65. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:
    (*a*) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;
    (*b*) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children.
66. Rights of indigenous peoples:
    (*a*) Rights of indigenous peoples;
    (*b*) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.
67. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:
    (*a*) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
    (*b*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
68. Right of peoples to self-determination.
69. Promotion and protection of human rights:
    (*a*) Implementation of human rights instruments;
    (*b*) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
    (*c*) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
    (*d*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

107. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

108. International drug control.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

135. Programme planning.

Fifth Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

115. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

    (*a*) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (*b*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (*c*) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (*d*) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (*e*) Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

    (*k*) Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee;

    (*l*) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission.

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

129. International residual mechanism for criminal tribunals.

131. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

    (*a*) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (*b*) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

    (*c*) Capital master plan.

132. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

133. Programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011.

134. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013.

135. Programme planning.

136. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

137. Pattern of conferences.

138. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

139. Human resources management.

140. Joint Inspection Unit.

141. United Nations common system.

142. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

143. Administration of justice at the United Nations.

144. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

145. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

146. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

147. Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

148. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

149. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

150. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

151. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

152. Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

153. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.

154. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

155. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

156. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

157. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

158. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

159. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

160. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

    (*a*) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

    (*b*) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

161. Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

162. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

163. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

164. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

165. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009).

Sixth Committee

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

77. Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States.

78. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

79. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-fourth session.

80. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

81. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session.

82. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

83. The rule of law at the national and international levels.

84. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

85. The law of transboundary aquifers.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

109. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

121. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

135. Programme planning.

143. Administration of justice at the United Nations.

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USD 40
ISBN 978-92-1-820270-3

Printed at the United Nations, New York

ISSN 0252-7014

12-30078 – April 2012